



SPRING 2015



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# KENT TENNIS

## 125 Years to Celebrate

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# Trevor May

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# Kent LTA is Celebrating 125 Years

## 'Retro' Tennis Day – Sunday 28 June at Tunbridge Wells LTC

Wooden rackets are essential so get them out of the loft, dust them down and share them with the youngsters who don't of course have such things. Wear tennis fashions from history and tuck into a bumper old fashioned tea on the lawn.

## County Closed BBQ at Bromley Tennis Centre

A celebration of the County Closed Championships and all those who have ever won an event in the past. Casual, Music, BBQ & for all ages.

## Champions of Champions Events – September (Parklangley)

Every club can enter your Club men's, ladies, boys and girls champions, to play mixed doubles and find the Champions of Champions.

# Editor's Note

1890 is way beyond all of our memories but still Kent Lawn Tennis Association is in great health and stronger and better than ever. To try and put this into some perspective I thought that I would try and illustrate the timeline a little.

The Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII, had a busy year in 1890. Among his duties he opened the longest bridge in Great Britain, (at that time) the 1,710 ft long Forth Railway Bridge in Scotland. In the November he opened the first underground station at Stockwell, South London.

Meanwhile on July 23rd, at the 14th Wimbledon, in the Mens Final, Willoughby Hamilton beat Willam Renshaw (6-8 6-2 3-6 6-1 6-1). Losing on this occasion, William still holds the record of 7 wins.

So many things were still to be invented: Powered Flight, Pennicillin, Plastics, TV and Computers, for example. I wonder what lies ahead for the next 125 years?

*Graham*

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# Gala Dinner Tickets Winner

The winning article is on page 4 and we must also mention that we has some really great articles submitted. Thank you to all of you who entered.

Please keep the stories coming in and don't forget to include photographs (and who is in them) or even your club logo.

# Sundridge Park LT & SRC Looking Back

## SUNDRIDGE PARK TENNIS CLUB Taken late 1953 when the club swept the board in the Men's, First and Second Divisions, Summer and Winter

Anne Anderson Ian Poulson Colonel Tewson Evelyn Hunt Harry Westall Cap  
Henry Voss Jean Odling? Gill Evans Jennifer Henson Anthea Gibb Irene Voss



Teddy Wates Shirley Griffith John Griffith Margaret Steele Ian Mackay  
(Mackay)

Well over half a century ago I became a member of Sundridge Park Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club. Early one afternoon I was greeted at the door of the clubhouse by a rather severe and upright gentleman. "Colonel Durtnell" he said. "Norman Friskney" I replied. He glanced down at my feet. In those days white tennis shoes were usually cleaned by members with white Blanco. Indeed, there was no compromise with an all-white turnout for tennis. "Could I have a word with you in private" he said. I retreated with him to a corner of the clubhouse. As I had recently resigned from my rank as a major in the Territorial Army I felt that there was no alternative but to bow to his superior rank.

He looked at me with a stern eye and I glanced down at my dirty shoes. I had, in fact, heard of his reproof directed at other slovenly members.

At this time in the early sixties of the last century the cold war was warming up. "We are looking" he said "for someone to take charge of the civil defence of Bromley". As a war time infantry commander, already again called up for the Suez crisis I was not particularly keen to accept his invitation and declined on the spot. However, next time I came up to the club I made sure that my shoes were properly cleaned!

Although our turnout had to be whiter than white the facilities of the clubhouse were less palatial. Changing rooms were scruffy to say the least. A trunk full of smelly discarded clothes and a hairbrush attached to a nail on a piece of string was all there was in the men's room. In the clubhouse bar were two wooden barrels of beer. As a regular beer drinker I was asked to take charge of these and one duty involved tapping fresh barrels. I was frequently splattered with beer when I tapped new tap into a barrel which made me very unpopular when I arrived back home. In those days there was no danger of being breathalised and there was a good deal of late night drinking amongst the squash players in particular. Most of them successfully negotiated their way home, but I do recall one evening when two senior members settled their differences in the clubhouse with fisticuffs.

On another occasion I went on court to play squash and to my surprise my opponent threw a revolver into the corner under the tin. I hoped that this was not a statement of intent should we have any difference of opinion in our interpretations of the points. I was glad when he explained that he had been on duty protecting the prime minister and did not like leaving a weapon in the changing room. I felt relieved and reassured but he won.

More seriously I recall one tennis match in which I took part when we were

## Gala Dinner Tickets Winner

In the face of some pretty stiff competition we are pleased to announce that this is the victorious article and our congratulations go to...

Mariska Adamson for compiling and submitting the winning piece.



## Ladies and Mixed Doubles over seasons.

Stain Dawson Malcolm Bowden  
Valerie Hunt



Pauline Roberts Brian Daniels  
(Titchener)

playing a Catford team. One of our opponents collapsed on court and later died. Whilst playing on a privately owned court in Croydon another member had to attend a friend who actually died on court. One evening after playing squash a member came in having had a rather bad injury on court which required urgent attention. We phoned for an ambulance and when it arrived an intending new member of the club was in the bar. As the unfortunately player was carried out to the ambulance she asked whether this was something that had happened on the squash court. A wit in the bar said "Oh yes, this often happens to squash players here." She made her excuses and left. We never saw her again.

However, there were more casual and easygoing times. One GP with whom I played regularly was very concerned when I pulled a muscle on court. "Sorry" I said "but I won't be able to play next week". "Don't worry" he replied. I was not his patient but he pulled out a prescription pad and made sure that I had the necessary treatment to play our usual weekly fixture.

Once on Final's Day, as tennis chairman I gave an account of the club's progress in the past year and casually reported our concern about the rape on court four. There was an audible sound of shock. My assurance to members that the groundsman had had a bad stock of seed for reseeding the court was received with a sigh of relief.

The club has had a long and chequered history. Its centenary was celebrated in 2008. It has given hundreds of joiners many years of pleasure and sporting endeavour and, above all, friendship. It will be remembered by generations of members and we wish it a long, happy and continued future.

*Norman J Friskney, former Chairman.*

## Sundridge Park-Centenary reunion

### 3 August 2008

Some of the members in the  
1950-1970 Era!



Norman Dale



Mrs. Wates Clive Button Vic Roberts



Vic Roberts Mike Beswetherick



Anthea Gibb



Ian Mackay



Malcolm Bowden



Keith Room



Malcolm Gibb



Derek Dodge



Mike Kidwell



Richard Barwick

Norman is now 92, he was headmaster of Wilson's Grammar School and last year published his autobiography "With Gun & Gown" - the autobiography of a soldier and scholar. He was chairman and tennis chairman of Sundridge Park for many years until a shoulder injury in his 70's stopped him playing.

# Report from the Kent Board of Management



It has been a busy start to our 125th anniversary year with many events planned for this important year and a lot of work going on behind the scenes in getting each of them organised. We have already held a successful team based competition held at the Bromley Tennis Centre in January, with combined team ages adding up to 125 years. The Board has now turned its attention to the Gala Dinner in May and the Retro Tennis event in July. We are also planning to publish a special anniversary edition of the Kent Handbook and much work has been carried out going through our archives and recent history!

One of our main areas of focus continues to be to ensure we can properly carry and support all the various activities that were previously undertaken by the LTA Kent based team. This has been a gradual transition of work and has been very challenging in terms of making sure all these various aspects are now covered off. This transition is now pretty much complete and between Clare and Harri and of course all our volunteers, we are now moving forward under the new arrangement. One aspect of this shift of responsibilities has been supporting and organising all our county teams and the Board therefore recently carried out a thorough review of our County Cup policy and turned this document into a Captain's Guide, as we now have to rely more heavily on team captains, especially for the junior teams, to take more responsibility for organising not just the selection and management of the team but all the other aspects such as travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses. The Guide now provides captains with a much clearer description of everything that the role encompasses and has been key in ensuring this transition of responsibilities has been a smooth one.

Since the beginning of the year we have had a new Treasurer, Nigel Jordan, on the Board and he is starting to make a real difference in the management and control of all our financial affairs. A lot of work has been going to ensure we have day-to-day book-keeping in place and he has been taking a fresh look at all our banking and other related financial arrangements. This is progressing well and Nigel has been updating the Board regularly on progress. We are also continuing our focus on raising more income for the county from commercial sponsors and partners. We now have all our existing sponsors signed up for this year, as well





Kent County Lawn Tennis Association Council - 2015  
Standing, Back Row, (L to R):  
Geoffrey Stephenson, Stuart Smith OBE,  
Malcolm Smith, Rosemary Lee,  
Nigel Jordan, Anna Wilson, Phil Lynch,  
Jason Baker & Rob Searle.  
Standing, Middle Row:  
Sue Thomas, John Darby,  
Roger Bottomley OBE, Mary Evans,  
Vanessa Webb and Abbie Lench.  
Seated:  
Angela Darby, Sandi Procter and  
Keeley Wicks.

as successfully adding some new organisations to that list. A number of discussions are still on-going with new potential sponsors as well so we are starting to see some healthier increases in our county revenue.

The Board has also been working hard to ensure that we maintain strong links and support for all our clubs. Importantly we have wanted to make sure that they were all aware of the recent field team changes and who was now responsible for what, and who specifically in Kent Tennis they should turn to if they need to contact us for any reason. We have now established a very clear list of Councillor responsibilities, in terms of who is covering which clubs, and this new structure was clearly set out at the recent Venue Forums. The Kent Board takes very seriously the LTA's overriding aim of growing tennis participation and we are working closely with the LTA's South East regional team to help support and roll-out important initiatives, such as the Great British Tennis Week-end over the summer, to generate greater levels of interest in the game and direct people to local clubs for get a taste of the game.

It only remains for me express my very great thanks to Abbie Lench who unfortunately is going to be stepping down from the Board, as she is leaving the LTA and relocating away from us to switch her allegiances to golf! Abbie has made a significant contribution in the short time she has been with us both in helping us develop our club support model but in bringing all our competition activities together more effectively. Thank you Abbie, from all the Board, and we wish you every success for the future.

*Malcolm Smith  
Chairman of the Board*

# Kent 18&U Girls County Cup 2015



Friday 27th February - Kent v Middx

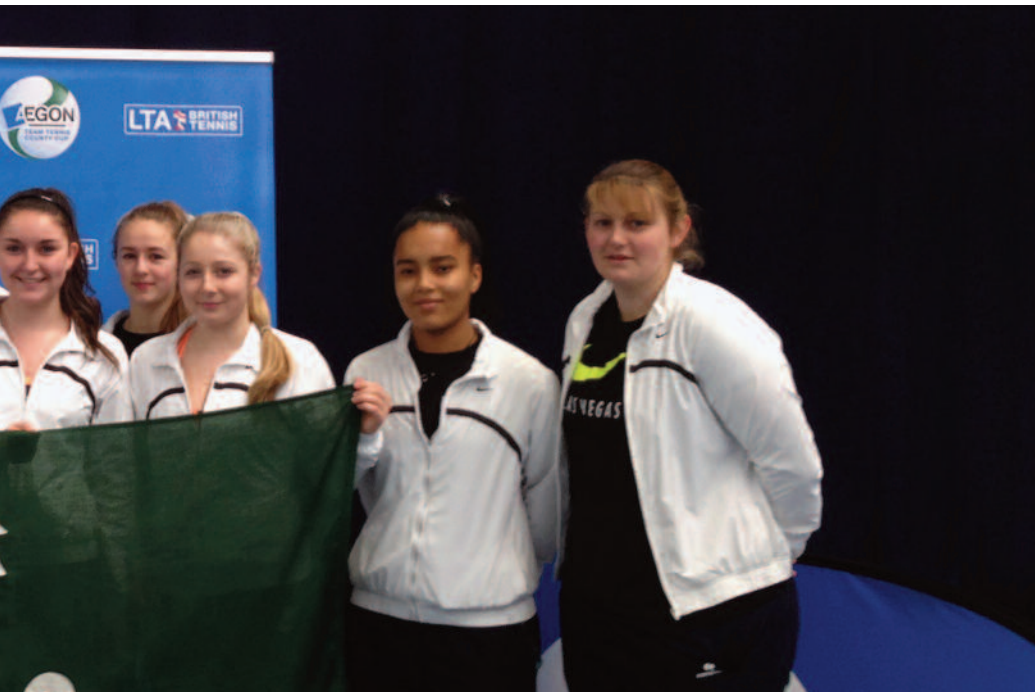
We knew from the off that today would be desperately tough. Middlesex had two WTA players to choose from to lead the line up. The girls knew they were going to have to play and compete unbelievably well to get rubbers on the board. Rachel and Alice were on court first at five and six. Rachel found it hard, going down 6-3 6-1. Alice performed well in a tight first set, losing in a breaker but unfortunately the second set went quicker as Alice lost 7-6 6-2. Next on court were Livi And Flo in the 3rd and 4th spots. Livi played with great spirit and fight but lost to Weymouth 6-3 6-4. Flo playing at number 3 put in a good, competitive performance but was edged out by Hutchinson 6-4 7-5. Sophia hit the court next, competed well but coming back from injury found things tough and went down 6-0 6-2. Sarah playing at number 1 competed but was up against a top 750 WTA player who was far more experienced. Sarah went down 6-2 6-2. Which unfortunately left Kent scraping for rubbers in the doubles. Thankfully Rachel and Sophia won at number 3, 7-6 6-2 but our other pairings of Flo and Livi at position 2 and Alice and Sarah at 1 didn't manage to win any more rubbers for Kent. It left Kent with an 8-1 loss for the day.

Kent were fighting for pride  
in their performance

Saturday 28th February - Kent v Yorkshire

The girls all knew that today was a must win! If we wanted any chance to at least be runners-up and remain in group 1 it had to happen for us. The team knew the importance of each match and so Rachel took to the court as our number 6 and Alice as our number 5. Rachel had a bit of a horror and lost 6-2 6-1 to Woon. Alice competed well and toughed out a 6-3 6-3 win which levelled the match. Livi then took on Megan Hopton and after a lot of horrible line calls the match was a set each. Livi fought so hard but Hopton pulled out the third set 7-5. Flo played very well at 3, competed for every point and showed courage as she won 6-4 6-3. This meant Kent and Yorks were level at two rubbers each. Sophia on her road back from injury threw all she had into her match but came unstuck against Nash, losing 6-2 6-2. Sarah also competed well at number 1 but it wasn't enough to gain a win. So after singles, Kent were down 4-2 needing all the doubles matches to steel a win. Rachel and Livi played some strong points and took the third doubles 6-3 6-2. Mia and Sarah split sets and pulled out some big points to take





the ten point breaker 10-2, which meant the match was level at four a piece. Unluckily for Kent, the number one Yorkshire pairing of Noble and Horsfall were just too strong for Flo and Soph, so Kent suffered a 5-4 loss to Yorks.

Sunday 1st March - Kent v Surrey Today Kent were fighting for pride in their performance. Each player was due to participate at some point throughout the day. Josi took on Heath losing in straight sets but put in a good performance. Alice played well, competed hard and came through winning in two comfortable sets. Livi had a great match against Appleton in position four, splitting sets but losing the third. Flo struggled to find her form and lost in straight sets. Soph fought incredibly hard to split sets but also lost in three. Sarah managed to win a very close first set before cruising through the second to pull out a great win in pole position. Which meant once again Kent were down 4-2 after the singles, leaving them the task of winning all remaining doubles matches.

Rachel and Livi were on court first against Burrage and Appleton. They played some great doubles points but the Surrey pair were just too sharp on the day. Tash and Mia

were also on court and nearly at the end of their first set when play was stopped due to an overall result. This meant Daphne and Sarah did not take to the court for their doubles. Surrey became County Cup Champions, Middx were runners up, Yorks third and Kent fourth.

Even though the girls will be in group 2 for 2016 I have total faith in them winning and regaining their spot in group 1. What a great group of players these Kent girls are, unfortunately out played this weekend in Bath. The girls all represented Kent unbelievably well this weekend and Holly and I were very proud of them both on and off court. Thanks to Holly for being the best assistant and making the trip a lot of fun...

...many moments to remember.

*Pippa Lane*

Captain - Pippa Lane  
Assistant - Holly Richards  
Team - Florence Abbott,  
Alice Gillan, Josi Hogh,  
Daphne Pratt, Olivia Parson,  
Natasha Munday, Mia Smith,  
Sophia Thomas, Sarah Wray  
and Rachel Le Comber.

# Kent 18&U Boys County Cup 2015



## Day 1 Kent vs Surrey

An intense practice with some of the team warming up as early as 7:30 was symbolic of the eagerness ahead of the tie between us and our local rivals Surrey. Following a motivational talk from coach Filmer, the boys prepared for their matches.

Unusually spread across three courts an action packed three matches unfolded. Tom Wright fought through a match full of distractions to draw first blood for Kent with a 6-4 6-1 win. Matt Summers then narrowly lost in a tight 6-4 6-3 match in which he asked many questions of his opponent. Jonah Smith put in a pugnacious performance but could not quite breakdown his opponent and lost after the longest lasting match of the first round. Isaac Stoute brought back the tie with a comfortable 6-2 6-0 victory resulting from a stoic performance. Alex juniper, despite a strong effort, could not quite claim victory over his opponent and yet again Kent narrowly lost a rubber 6-4 6-3. James Davis finished the round of singles to tie up the rubbers with another comfortable victory to the score of 6-0 6-2. Matt Summers and Tom Wright were the first pair to finish and they won their match 6-3 6-3 after an energetic display. James Davis and Nick Brookes (doubles specialist) lost narrowly in a championship tiebreak after fighting back to win the second set. It all came down to the pairing of Isaac Stoute and Alex juniper. They didn't disappoint. After a slow start the boys won their match 6-4 6-3 to chants in their names. A 5-4 victory over Surrey left everyone in high spirits.

## Day 2 Kent vs Leicestershire

The day began with a practice at 8:15 where we learned that Jonah was ill and James was injured, from this moment we knew it was going to be a hard day ahead. In the first round of matches Milo was due to face James Ison, and Remus was to play Joseph Cook. Remus unfortunately lost 6-1 6-2 in a match that was closer than it sounded. He battle hard but was unfortunately beaten by an opponent who just edged it in the big points. Magic Milo on the other hand had a battle on his hands. After winning the first set 6-3 and losing the second to the same score line he entered the third set with very little momentum. At 5-2 down in the third set he showed why he has the nickname "Magic Milo", he came back to reach the breaker at 6-6. Yet again his opponent took the lead at 6-4 up in the breaker but in true Kentish spirit he fought back to take it 9-7. In the next round of matches Tom played Rahul Dhokia, he carved out a 6-2 6-1 win whilst dealing with illness. A true warrior in the face of adversity, typical of a Kent player.

On court 2 was Matt who took a routine 6-2 6-3 win against the Leicestershire number 3. In the final round of singles matches Isaac and Alex moveup to numbers 2 and 1 respectively. Both took the win, Alex toughing it out against fierce opposition in the third set to take the match 6-1 in the third and Isaac taking out Barnaby Thorold 6-4 6-3.





Captain - Alistair Filmer  
 Vice Captain - James Langford  
 Team - Milo Bargeron  
 Nick Brookes, Remus Cope  
 James Davis, Alex Juniper  
 Bailey Robbins, Jonah Smith  
 Isaac Stoute, Matthew  
 Summers and Thomas Wright.

Into the doubles Kent were 5-1 to the good but the win needed consolidating. The first two doubles were won by the pairings of Nick and James, and Matt and Tom. The last of the doubles rubbers saw Isaac and Alex meet some tenacious opponents who gave it their resulting in a tight and exciting match which the Kentish boys managed to edge 10-8 in the third set breaker.

For supper tonight there was a strict dress code of suit and tie. We entered Frankie&Bennys looking like a scene from "Ocean's 12". Highlights of the evening included Isaac's controversial take on the dress code and Chippy losing consecutive rounds of 5's for some diabolical forfeits.

### Day 3 - Kent vs Cheshire

The day began with a game of football to warm up, the team with Jonah on were of course the victors. The team then progressed into a hitting warm-up. Remus Cope enjoyed a fantastic half hour warm up with Kent talisman Jonah Smith. At 9.00am Alistair and James took the team for a rallying team talk to get us fired up! Next, at just after 9.00am, 'magic milo' Bargeron and Tom Wright took to court. Tom easily dismantled the Cheshire number 5; 6-1, 6-0 with ease despite prior illness. A routine job for the strongest trap 5 in County Cup

history. On the contrary, Milo had a tough match and after losing the first set, managed to fight hard bravely and won in three sets.

In the next round of matches, Alex Juniper and Matthew Summers were to play. Matt inevitably wrapped up his opponent 6-3 6-0 with an outstanding array of shots. Alex was playing an unknown but stern opponent with outlandishly bright shoes. Alex's county experience showed and he won 6-2, 6-2.

On court 2 after Matthew was Isaac Stoute. Isaac was extremely relaxed and far too solid for Cheshire number 2 Jamie Oakes. He prevailed 6-1, 6-3 meaning Kent had won! Promotion was ours!

James Davis was meant to be playing Adam Jones in a highly anticipated match but Jones had retained a wrist injury during the weekend.

As Matt and Tom went on for doubles we had already won the tie, however, the lads still fought hard and played clinical doubles. Their match ended 6-2,6-1. The second doubles pair sadly had to retire due to Adam Jones' injury which meant Jonah and Alex had a walkover. Nick and James had a tough doubles match against a strong Cheshire pair, but still managed to win 6-3 6-7 (1-0) with a gruelling tie-break.

The end result was a Kent victory and guaranteed promotion to division 1. The weekend was a great success with huge contributions from all the team. We look forward to next year and having a crack at the title.

# Will a Clubhouse Bring Change?

My Tennis Club celebrated its Centenary last year. A sepia photograph said to be taken in 1915, was the earliest published record of the club's first members. It shows the group gathered together in front of their tin hut pavilion. The white frocked line of ladies display an assortment of wide brimmed hats and are seated in stripy deckchairs grasping their wooden racquets. A back line of uniformed Soldiers stand to attention either side of Alderman Hicks who was the Chairman in 1924. A solitary school capped lad sits cross legged in between five young girls who are adorned with long glossy coils of rag rolled hair.

Records show that in 1915 the 44 adult members paid 15/- (75p) in subs.



Celebrations for the club's Centenary were held last June and included a posh black tie dinner with a live band and a four course meal. We invited past senior members as guests of honour and the evening was a great success. A family fun day and bbq at the courts was held the following day on our new grassy picnic area, which was transformed two years ago from an overgrown allotment. There was a prize for the best turned out man or woman sporting tennis fashion of the 1920's. The real challenge was having to play with one of the many old fashioned wooden bats which are arm achingly hard work compared to the light weight racquets of modern times.

I first joined Sandwich LTC in 2007 and was impressed with the warm welcome I received and the genuine encouragement to join in despite being a rusty player. I have always loved playing tennis and will generally be on court throughout the year, along with other die hard members who turn out regardless of bad weather. Brooms in hand, the courts have been swept clear of snow on some occasions. Perhaps this resolve and enthusiasm emanates from not having a clubhouse to retire to when bad weather descends? The backdrop of trees serve as our shelter.

Planning permission for a clubhouse has now been granted. It is expected that Members will have the luxury of spreading themselves about under cover and have use of an indoor loo and washbasin before the end of this summer. Will this be our downfall? Will the whistle of the kettle and lure of hot coffee turn us into softies?

Not all members are full-time residents of Sandwich. Weekenders from London inject a fresh and more cosmopolitan atmosphere. Social activities are high on the agenda and as the lighter evenings attract more tennis playing, the on court banter and fast, witty camaraderie is usually continued in the pub afterwards.

Our club is located in a leafy road leading to Sandwich Bay and the famous St. George's Golf Club. Cycling to tennis on a Sunday morning to the accompaniment of pealing bells from nearby St. Clement's Church, feeling the warmth of the sun on my bare arms and legs, is as near perfect as it gets. As I approach the courts I hear the dull thud of tennis balls reverberating through the air. I peddle faster to hurry along for a game.

There is one drawback to summer tennis in Sandwich - giant mosquitos which feast on our flesh surreptitiously, leaving red weals of angry flesh. It is a pity we can't train the flocks of screeching bright green parakeets, which flit and swoop over our heads to tuck into the whining devils. The distinct aroma of insect repellent and sounds of swatting interjected with loud cursing is a tiresome feature of playing summer tennis by the water's edge. The Captain of the seal spotting vessel nearby, booms out his spiel over the tannoy as he steers his boat upstream, ferrying tourists to see the fat brown seals adorning the estuary.

So what will it be like when our new clubhouse sits in splendour amongst the verdant greenery and we can stay warm and dry sipping hot drinks in winter and cold in summer? Will the security of shelter stop us from stepping outside and continuing to play in inclement weather or will we still embrace the elements believing that we are made of stronger stuff?

The tennis is what matters.

*Venita Dickens*





# Canterbury Tennis Academy Celebrates

Canterbury Tennis Academy boys at the 8&U County Closed Championships with Austin Smith.

Boys standing L-R:

Cameron Grieve, Oliver Curtiss, Oliver Jeer, Michael Nkereuwem.

Boys seated L-R:

Xabier Haining-Merino, Marcelo Brooks-Merino, Benjamin Gusic-Wan, Dominic Curtiss, Raif Fontanelli, Mihai Bradu.

Players from Canterbury Tennis Academy celebrated a fantastic couple of days at the 8&U winter Kent County Closed Championships. Benjamin Gusic-Wan won the boys event becoming 2015 county champion at just 7 years of age. Benjamin, who trains at Polo Farm 3 times a week, went one further than last year when he was runner up to club-mate Ewan Grieve. Ben's success is the culmination of a great deal of hard work. He was one of the first players to take part in the Academy's Get Set programme that aims to fast-track enthusiastic players by providing coaching and support to those players and parents taking their first steps in the sport.

Canterbury had the highest presence at the event with 10 of the 44 boys and 4 of the 29 girls taking part coming from Polo Farm. Oliver Curtiss, Cameron Grieve and Michael Nkereuwem all won their box rounds to qualify for the boys 16 place main draw with Michael finishing 6th overall and winning the Fair Play award. Mihai Bradu finished 2nd in his box and went on to win the Consolation event. There were also some great performances from Oliver Jeer, Xabier Haining-Merino, Marcelo

Brooks-Merino, Raif Fontanelli and Dominic Curtiss.

In the girls event Tiggy Cammegh reached the semi-finals, losing to eventual champion Lois Newberry from West Heath. Henrietta Jeer lost to Lois in the last 16 but went on to win the girls Consolation. Gemma Small and Genevieve Jeer also competed strongly and did the club proud with Gemma picking up the Fair Play award.

Coach Duncan Prior attended the event and commented: "They all played with great passion, skill and determination, chasing down every ball and making opponents work hard for their points." Of Ben's success he said "a fantastic achievement and well deserved with the amount of time, effort and dedication he is putting into developing his skills."

*Sharon Chastang*

## 'Sporting Moment of the Year Award' for Deal's Toby



Every year Kent Regional News and Media celebrate the brightest and best sporting talent that the County has to offer. Sports stars from all Sports and all across the County came together for a wonderful evening at the Annual Sports Awards ceremony held at Eastwell Manor in Ashford. Seven awards are given on the evening that include Sports star of the year, Young Sports star of the year, Team of the year, Young Team of the Year, Coach of the Year, Sporting Moment of the Year and Unsung Hero. Each Regional Newspaper editor selects worthy news stories throughout the year and compiles a list which is then put into each areas newspaper where the readers are invited to vote for their local heroes.

Once all the votes have been collated the editors will then compile a list of the top three for each of the seven different categories. The three placings are then decided by the Editorial teams and announced at the glitzy Awards Ceremony.

Deal Indoor Tennis Centre were celebrating when their coach Toby Churchill won the 'Dover Express Sporting Moment of the Year Award'. There were a number of memorable sporting moments to choose from in Dover but the readers voted for Tennis Star Toby Churchill who continues to show he is one of the county's best. Churchill featured in a lot of news stories 2014/15 when he won the Deal Open Men's Singles Tournament for the third year running, His Men's team that he plays on and captains won their division in the Slazenger Inter-Club Kent League Winter and Summer, the team then followed this up by winning the Deal Indoor Winter League Division 1 and the East Kent Division 1 Summer League.

Churchill made it to the Kent County Closed Finals for the second year running and won the East Kent Championships Doubles Finals for the third year running.

After receiving his award from the Head of Sport KRNM Glenn Garrett, who hosted the evening he said "I'm very pleased to win the award, it was a good year for me. The only problem is that I tore the cruciate ligament in my knee whilst taking my Level 4 Performance Coaching Course and I cannot play for another Year.

So I'm pleased to end this year on a high. When I'm fit I will make my big comeback but at the moment I'm spending a lot of time in the Gym working on my strength".

*Vanessa Webb*



Traditionally the Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club organises one of its two Junior Tennis Tournaments at Easter. This is fraught with danger as no one knows what the weather will do at this time of year. Last year the tournament started in heavy rain, whilst in 2013 there were snow blizzards. This year however, the tournament sponsored by local estate agents SAVILLS, was bathed in sunshine, and in fact the only rain was on finals day when it delayed the start by one hour.

As usual the tournament attracted an entry of over 200 juniors ranging in age from eight years to eighteen. Probably the most remarkable win of the day was that in the girls 18 and under final. The number 1 seed, Josephine Hogh, took on unseeded 13 year old Tiegan Aitken from Canterbury. Tiegan decided against playing in the under 14,s and under 16,s and went straight into the higher class, and what a match she played. She traded shots consistently with Josephine many times out playing her in a composed manner that that one would associate with an older player. After just over an hour of excellent tennis Tiegan won the match 7-6, 6-3.

Equally impressive was the performance of Jack Beutill-Trigg who was number 2 seed in both the boys 16 and under, and 18 and under competitions and was last year's winner. Playing at the same time as the girls on an adjacent court in the 18u competition, he beat 4th seed Jonah Smith 6-2, 6-2, and in the 16u an equally impressive score against the 3rd seed Alex Jocham winning 6-4, 6-0. The Jocham family didn't go home empty handed however, as Alex's younger brother Isaac, won the 12u boys final beating Toby Broomfield 6-3, 6-2.

Interestingly, there was only one player in the singles competition who lived up to a number 1 seeding, and that was Phoebe Watton. Phoebe comes from a

famous tennis family with her father John having played many years for Kent. She also partners her sister Hannah in the girls 18u doubles.

Phoebe was the number 1 seed in the girls 16u singles, 14u singles, and 14u doubles with partner Flora Mcewan. She achieved a hat trick of wins and was the most successful player of the week. Unfortunately Phoebe couldn't make it 4 from 4 as partnering her sister Hannah she lost to Simone Deverall and Josephine Hogh in the 18u girls doubles, a round robin competition. The sisters looked to be well ahead winning the first set and leading in the second, when it all began to slip away and they finally lost it in three sets.

Henry Hughes and Alex Targett won the boys 14u doubles with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jordan Dunk and Ben Phan.

#### *Other Results*

Girls 12u singles: Oriana Parkins-Godwin beat Phoebe-Mireille Ecuyer-Dale 6-2, 6-0

Boys 10u singles: Alexis Chastang beat Darcy Pycroft 4-1, 4-0

Girls 10u singles: Isabel Mc Cullough beat Skye Bentum-Siripi in a round robin event.

Boys 9u singles: Lucian Mischker beat Sergio Vieira 5-7, 7-2, 7-5

Girls 9u singles: Ellie Blackford beat Isabella Basson 7-5, 8-6

The only mixed match of the day was the 18u which was won by Louis-Simon Eden and Abbey Taylor beating Harry Shaw and Phoebe-Mireille Ecuyer-Dale in a round robin affair.

Incorporated in junior tournaments is an adult class this year including mens singles and doubles. The singles winner was again a repeat of last year's easter tournament result with a win for Andy McLennan beating this year, Tim Schoenert 6-3, 6-2. And in the doubles, top seeds Jonah Smith and Elliot Ward beat unseeded Tunbridge Wells coach, James Charman and Sam Smith.

## *Tunbridge Wells LTC SAVILLS Easter Junior Tournament*

So a great week of tennis, and it was good to see so many children enjoying themselves. We are looking forward to our next junior tournament in August.

# Wye Tennis Club



We had a visit from the Sports Minister, Rt. Hon. Hugh Robertson, MP, Roger Draper and Club Patron Rt. Hon. Damian Green, MP. Austin Smith is on the extreme right of the front row. July 2011.

Our ethos is never to say no if we can say yes. We make the Club welcoming and relaxed and as informal as possible. All visitors are encouraged to make themselves a complimentary drink. Our membership is based on trust and common sense. Everyone has a key to the Clubhouse. There is not a list of rules, everyone respects the integrity of the Club.

Wye Tennis Club was founded in 1971 and is six miles north of Ashford. In 2008 we were a two court club with a portacabin and a portacabin and 149 members. After opening our small but purpose built clubhouse later that year, we invited Wye Primary School to use our courts, with the condition that they employed our LTA licensed coach. The school agreed and three weekly tennis sessions commenced as part of the school's sporting curriculum. By the end of the term 29 pupils had joined our club along with nine of their parents. Because at last we had a decent Clubhouse our membership by the end of 2008 had increased to 220. Fund raising again commenced and courts three and four were opened in 2010. Now being a four court Club our membership increased to 318. A fifth court was added in 2012 and our membership now stands at an incredible 401.

This is proof that if you have good facilities with sessions for everyone with good structured quality coaching and is accessible and affordable and have strong school links which 'self feed' the membership growth, the Club will succeed.

In 2008 we had one coach working 14 hours a week. We now have three coaches who coach between them 80 hours each week with 260 juniors and 40 adults benefitting. Our business model is based on economy of scale. Value for money is the key.

Our subscription fees have remained unchanged for four years. A junior is £38, an over 60 year old pays £90, under 60 is £100 and a family membership is £195. This is all that anyone pays. It includes, on-line court booking, provision of balls, flood lighting, tea, coffee and squash, wi-fi. We charge £5 an hour per court for non members.

Our annual income has increased from £8,000 six years ago to £30,000. This gives us income over expenditure of £10,000. One quarter of our income is reinvested into two scholarship schemes and an assisted places scheme whereby a number of our juniors receive weekly coaching that is paid for by the Club. This has been hugely successful. We welcome new members regardless of age or ability. We never ask a person's ethnic background we are only interested in getting a racket into their hands. We have sessions for everyone. Ladies, the over 60s, juniors and Club nights. We have ten junior teams and 12 senior teams competing in various leagues. Wye is a vibrant, friendly grassroots community club that offers fun, fitness and friendship.

A Club that our members  
are proud to belong to!

[www.wyetenis.org.uk](http://www.wyetenis.org.uk)

Graham Sutherland  
Wye Club Chairman





## Herne Bay - Lionel Hoskins Receives the LTA's Meritorious Service Award 2014

Lionel, honoured to receive his award at the LTA AGM just before Christmas by LTA President Cathie Sabin.

Lionel Hoskins is one of the great characters of Kent Tennis. At 83 years of age he still plays enthusiastically and competitively. Lionel began playing tennis at home and then at school from the age of five.

In his final year at school he was the School champion of 1948.

He joined the Belvedere Tennis Club in the early 1960's.

Aside from Tennis Lionel has played for numerous cricket clubs and his earlier working years was mainly involved professionally with his father and brother in running speedway and stock car racing in Manchester, London, Glasgow and Canterbury.

In 1965 he moved from Glasgow to London, whereupon he joined the Civil Service.

He was soon Honorary Secretary of the Department of Transport's Cricket Club and latterly of its Tennis Club. A position he held for thirty two years while also recording a possible record number of Civil Service Veterans Tennis Championships. He was also a member of the Civil Service LTA committee for thirty years and is currently the long serving Honorary Secretary of the Civil Service Pensioners Alliance for the Canterbury and District Group. In 1975 Lionel joined Herne Bay Tennis Club and became their Honorary Secretary.

He was involved in entering the Club into the Kent Tennis Leagues for the

first time.

He played a part in getting Herne Bays Mens first team from division nine up to division one in just eight years where they remain today.

During his time as Honorary Secretary he also captained and organised away victories over Waltrop in Germany and Calais and Dunkirk in France.

Meanwhile, Lionel has remained at Herne Bay Tennis Club and still sits on the clubs committee for his thirty-seventh year. He is currently the Mens captain of Herne Bay's third team in the Kent LTA League.

Lionel is also the Honorary Secretary for the East Kent Lawn Tennis Association. A position he has held for twenty one years and remains heavily involved with the administration work and organisation of East Kent.

He has enjoyed considerable success at County and National Level throughout his playing career, and in October 2014 shared the Civil Service Veteran Mens Doubles Championships title. In addition he has won numerous LTA and other Doubles Championships and has been a key representative for veteran teams since the 65 and over sides began in 1998.

He now represents Kent in the 75 and over squad.

*Vanessa Webb*

*Marcia Ackers  
First made it on to  
the Great Britain  
65s team in 2003  
and from there  
played eight times  
in the years that  
followed*



Marcia holding the Singles and Doubles Cups from the National Grass Court Championships at Aorangi

## *It Is Never Too Late*

*Denis Costelloe Interviews Marcia Ackers*

Marcia Ackers is a lady that has achieved more than many of us ordinary club players can ever dream of, And whats more – she did the bulk of it on reaching the Veterans arena of Tennis. From representing Kent at Netball and Squash, after college participation at Cricket, Lacrosse and Rounders. Bradford born Marcia moved onwards to act as non playing captain of the Kent Ladies Tennis team for six years. Her own rise to fame was to come later once she joined the Veterans ranks in 1978. Read her interview and you will realize that you are never too late or too old to make your mark in the game.

Marcia just recieved her Team GB Silver



*Where were you born Marcia and did you come from a sporting family?*

Marcia - I was born in Bradford in 1938. My father was keen sportsman and he played cricket & snooker. My brother excelled at football and played for the University & Skelmsdale. He was also quite good at cricket and was a Yorkshire colt. Academic wise he became a Headmaster in Liverpool. He sadly died of Leukemia at the rather young age of 53.

*Who introduced you to Tennis?*

Marcia - I started playing at the age of eleven, which is old by todays standards

*Lets move on to your School days. Were you much involved with Sport?*

Marcia - Well I got a scholarship to Bradford Girls Grammar School and I played for all the schools netball and tennis teams throughout my school years. Sport was always enjoyable and I played for a local parks Tennis Team and entered local Tennis Tournaments with moderate success. From Bradford I went to Chelsea PE College attached to London University but based at Eastbourne

*And I guess you got very much involved with the sporting life of the College?*

Marcia - Very much so, you name it I played it. I played for the college teams in tennis, netball, lacrosse & rounders, and I also played cricket for Eastbourne Ladies.

*College days over I understand your travels took you to Kent?*

Marcia - That is correct. On leaving college I went to teach PE at Dartford Girls Grammar School. I was selected to play netball for Kent, South East of England & England trials. My most exciting experience was playing for South of England v North of England on the indoor arena at Wembley. Great atmosphere and here I was, a Yorkshire lass playing against the North.

I then went on to teach at Northfleet GS & Cobham Hall, where I was Head of PE and

*You were very much part of the Kent Ladies 70 side who were National Champions twice and runners up once. Now that's some achievement?*

Marcia - Great wins, great team and great squad of players. Won it the first year with Cynthia Smith, Ruth Illingworth, Janet Broster, Helen Jary and myself and the following year with Ruth, Helen, Janet, Susan Long and myself. Moments to treasure beyond doubt.



resident 6th form housemistress. My most memorable tennis experience whilst teaching at Cobham, was training 60 ball girls for 3 years for the Beckenham Tennis Tournament held prior to Wimbledon. I had the pleasure of meeting Stefan Edberg, John McEnroe & Ivan Lendl.

By this time I had joined Hartley Country Club where I played Badminton and Squash. My ability at Squash brought me selection for Kent. I also took time to get qualified as a Squash Coach and to add another string to my bow, I also qualified as a Tennis Coach.

*You also became a member of Shooters Hill Tennis Club?*

Marcia - Yes, I did and I have very fond memories of the week-end Social Tennis and the great friends that I made there. My partners in matches were Malcolm Gloster and Pat Stanton charming players to play with full of encouragement. Social tennis in those days at every Tennis Club was great fun, large crowds and of course I met my husband John at Shooters Hill. Around 1964 John and myself moved to Hartley Country Club and in those days the Club had only two tennis courts. That is until the late Roger Smith, a man who always got things done, headed a Development Committee to increase court capacity. I played for all the first teams at Hartley and won several Ladies Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles title. I was also a member of the Hartley team that won gold medals at the World Corporate games. I consider being very fortunate to have played at two first class well run Clubs in Shooters Hill and Hartley

*Lets talk about your representation of these Clubs and your current club David Lloyd Dartford in North Kent Cup competitions where you hold a special record?*

Marcia - Yes, I have played in a record 24 North Kent Finals and have won 16 titles. I was presented with a North Kent 75th Anniversary mug at their Annual Social by the Chairman Phil Lynch in 2011.

*You were captain of Kent Ladies for a number of years?*

Marcia - I had the honour of being Kent Ladies Captain from 1987 to 1993 taking over from Sue Tuebler. We never progressed beyond the second division despite having a capable squad that included: Sally & Jenny Reeves, Jenny Blythe Lewis, Michelle & Maria Wheeler, Debbie Fossey, Sally Holmes, Gaynor Hawkins and Lindsey Hine, to name a few. I enjoyed the experience and the sense of pride leading my adopted County

*Next to Veterans Tennis Marcia and your outstanding successes. I'm not sure if you realise that you have made a magnificent 122 Veterans appearances for Kent only bettered by your good friend Cynthia Smith now retired with 124 caps*

Marcia - Thank you for that piece of information as I was not aware of how many times I had played. I do know that I started playing for Kent Vets when I was 40 and that I played virtually every match through the age groups with such encouraging partners like Cynthia Smith, Sue Croft, Bridget Nicholson & Ruth Illingworth.

*Can we now turn to your success at National level?*

Marcia - I have won three National Singles titles and picked up twelve Doubles titles. My partners in doubles included: Jo Padrette from Middlesex, June Pearce of Essex and Jean Porter of Surrey

*And you have also represented England in the four nations cup followed up by selection on the Great Britain side?*

Marcia - Yes, I have cherished memories of captaining the victorious England side in Glasgow in the four nations event with a trio that included Cynthia Smith, Joy Dally of Surrey and yours truly. I first made it on to the Great Britain 65s team in 2003 and from there played eight times in the years that followed. This meant trips to Austria, Philadelphia, Perth in Australia and on five occasions to Turkey. In 2013 our GB side came home with a well deserved silver medal

*Can I ask you who was the best player that you partnered during your career and secondly the best player that you have played against?*

Marcia - At county and national level Ruth Illingworth was a joy to play with, a player of skill, strength and ability to spot ones opponents strengths or weakness. At Club level I formed quite a successful partnership with Elaine Coombs. As for top opposition, I recall partnering Graham Middleton of Hartley in a London Parks Tournament where

we played Chris Wells aged 14 and Michele Tyler aged 12. Their skills and strokes at this young age were remarkable and of course both went on to greater things, Michele having wins over Billie Jean King and Pam Shriver to mention two. Naturally I faced very strong opposition when representing GB, players of exceptional talent, but their names would not mean much to KLT readers

*Marcia, you have played tennis for, I guess five decades or more, can I ask you, what changes have benefited the game and secondly if there is anything that you miss from those youthful days?*

Marcia - Well, I have actually played the game for 65 years with mini breaks having children and my commitment to Kent County Netball. On retiring from teaching at the age of 63 I took up tennis on a full time basis. The most beneficial change in the game has been the advancement in technology producing lighter rackets, and much better footwear. I do miss the characters in the game such as McEnroe, Nastase, Connors and the touch and class of Santana. And those glorious doubles matches one saw on TV at tea time with all the top players of that era involved. Hewitt and McMillan, Tony Roche, Bobby Wilson, Pam Shriver, Rosie Casals, McNamee and McNamara and so on.

*How long do you intend carrying on playing Tennis Marcia?*

Marcia - Until my body gives out or family circumstances decree otherwise.

*Who are your three favourite players of all time?*

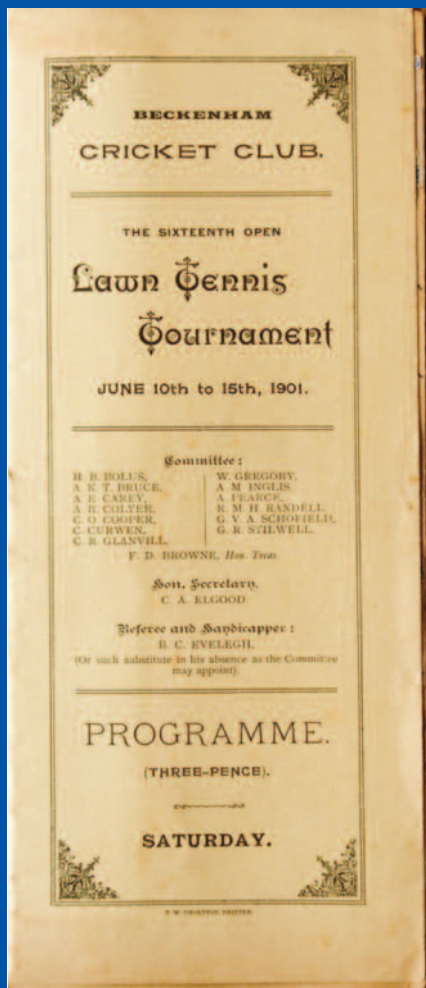
Marcia - Stefan Edberg, Manuel Santana and Martina Hingis, all with talent in abundance, who were gracious in victory and in defeat.

*And finally Marcia, your favourite pieces of music?*

Marcia - Samuel Barbers Adagio for Strings and the Abba songs because I can remember all the words.

*No place then for the Gallowglass Ceile Band?*

Marcia - The who?



Victorian Tennis Pavilion 1906

## Beckenham Lawn Tennis Club

Beckenham Lawn Tennis Club, a founding member of the Kent County Lawn Tennis Association, was established at Foxgrove Road in Beckenham in 1879, when three grass courts were cut. It quickly became a leading club in Kent tennis after six cricket members conjured up the idea of holding a Kent All-Comers' Championship in 1886, which saw 10 grass courts cut. The first event made a loss of £1. 10s. 9d, but its reputation soon grew. Beckenham welcomed its first foreign competitors from the United States in 1898 and in 1905 Australian Norman Brookes became the tournament's first international champion. Slazenger's provided the tournament tennis balls every year from 1902, while the Challenge Round was abolished in 1911 and an Under 21 event, which became a national championship, started in 1921. Players from the former Soviet Union first competed on Beckenham's grass in 1958. The Kent All-Comers' Championships was the world's first tournament to have a sponsor, Rothmans, in 1963, after a special dispensation from the Lawn Tennis Association, the governing body of British tennis. Almost five years later in March 1968 at a Special General Meeting in Paris, Beckenham was awarded the status of an Open event. The club welcomed amateur and professional players to compete in the world's first Open grass-court tournament in June 1968. It was the third Open field in 1968 after the British Hard Court Open in Bournemouth and the French Open at Roland Garros. World and national champions competed on the outfield of Beckenham Cricket Club until 1996, when a title sponsor could not be found. In total, 33 'double' winners – those who won the singles title at Beckenham and Wimbledon – had etched their name in Beckenham folklore. An unsuccessful attempt was made to re-establish the tournament in 2005. Its wooden Victorian tennis pavilion, built in 1896, was English Heritage Grade II listed in March 2013. Beckenham has 18 tennis courts, including four different surfaces – acrylic, artificial clay, grass and macadam. In 1982, it became the first club in Kent to have floodlight tennis courts. Over the past 136 years, Beckenham Lawn Tennis Club has produced dozens of junior and adult county champions. Beckenham Cricket Club will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2016. For more information visit: <http://www.beckenhamtennisclub.co.uk/history/>.

*James Buddell*

Beckenham LTC:

Facebook [[/beckenhamtennisclub](https://www.facebook.com/beckenhamtennisclub)] and Twitter [[@beckenhamtennis](https://twitter.com/beckenhamtennis)]







# Beckenham Tennis Tournament 1970

Someone recently gave me a programme of the 1970 Beckenham Tournament, an event long since gone due to the lack of sponsorship. The 1970 tournament, all those forty five years ago was blessed with glorious weather and referred to by the local paper as “a tournament that retains its garden party atmosphere which other competitions envy”. Rothmans of Pall Mall provided sponsorship with £100 to the winner who was Clark Graebner. The runner up Bob Maud received £50. Graebner earned a further £50 when he won the Mens Doubles with Frew Mc Millian. The Ladies received a similar amount with Patti Hogan defeating Olga Morozova 6-1, 6-3 and she later got an extra £30 when winning the Ladies Doubles with Peggy Michel her fellow Californian. First round losers received £5. There was Kent interest in the Mens Doubles with Charles Bailey partnering Malcolm Gibb and they went out in the first round to Abe Segal and M. Baleson 8-6, 4-6, 6-1. Likewise in the Ladies Doubles Mrs Sidney Brock and Mrs Neumanova and Judy Stapleton and Miss M Herbert went out in round one. We did have of course the Kent Mens and Ladies Close Doubles where Charles Bailey and Malcolm Gibb beat Stephen Woodley and Neil Donnelly in the final by 6-3, 6-4 and in the ladies Alison Fraser-Black and Gill McGregor got the better of Pauline Cox and Sue Teubler on the score of 6-4, 1-6, 6-4. The Mens event attracted an entry of 32 pairs that included Colin Dancy and John Mansell, Ian Mackay and Ray

Sherman, John Pugh and Peter Norman, Jeff Wright and Bernard Smith, Keith Ajegbo and Colin Evans and Chris Wells and Ron Wellard. The Ladies entry had Madge Alcorn and Mrs Brock, Zena Urmston and Miss J Vallat and Kath Garratt and Gladys Whiffen.

The programmes advertisements included Slazenger Balls (used once) at fifty five shillings per dozen, portable typewriters starting at £23 -15-0 and for the latest tennis ladies attire, a beautiful ultra-feminine dress with rows and rows of lace threaded lemon or ski blue and all for eleven and a half guineas – go on, work out what 11 and a half guineas is in to days money. A paper cutting of finals day had pages of job opportunities, for instance, a ledger clerk with wages of £1000 per annum, invoice typist with wages of £13 a week, laundry plant attendant at Epsom Hospital paying seven shillings and eleven pence an hour. I do hope you enjoyed that little trip down Beckenham way 45 years ago and who knows perhaps you went to the Cricket Club Dance on June 13th where tickets cost ten shillings and sixpence. It was you that I saw parking your new Hillman Avenger –Yes!

*Denis Costelloe*

# *We're Forever Blowing Bubbles at Bromley Tennis Centre*



The highlight of the Spring term at Bromley Tennis Centre was the build and inflation of our 4 court brand new air dome over our existing outdoor courts! Most of the autumn term was spent preparing the courts for the arrival of the bubble and Yeadon Air Domes worked through the wind and rain to get the ground works ready by the end of the term. After the Christmas break the air dome, which was being shipped from Minneapolis in America, began its long journey to the UK.

It was packed into a shipping container and loaded on to a boat for its two week expedition across the North Atlantic. Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and the cold spell near Montreal put a dampener on our hopes of it being inflated and ready for use in the first week of term, setting us back at least 2 weeks! Thankfully, with a bit of luck and strong wind behind it, the Ottawa Express container ship eventually made it all the way to the UK and docked in Liverpool on 4th February.

Staff opened the centre early and eagerly awaited the container's arrival on site at 5am on Friday 6th February. Within two days, the three parts of the bubble were joined together, secured in place and fully inflated by Yeadon's 25+ strong team who moved swiftly with expertise and skill. After the additional ground works and snagging were completed, the keys were handed over on the following Friday and everything was ready in time for the BTC Spring Grade 3 tournament.

We will be sad to see it come down this Easter but it will be back in October and courts 7-10 will be sheltered from the elements once more. We're very excited to be Kent's premier indoor facility with 10 indoor courts in the Winter and 6 in the Summer!

*Emma Wanostrocht*





Bromley Tennis Centre are very proud of the accomplishments many of our players have had over the last year, achieving even higher standards than ever before. Most notably Anton Matusevich, Emma Raducanu, Nell Miller, Thomas Wright, Kristina Paskauskaite, Sasha Hill, Sofia Johnson and Alaia Rubio-Perez in the older age groups with many of our younger players also excelling.

Highlights:

Emma Raducanu  
 Orange Bowl, USA finished 5th  
 Won Tennis Europe 14s Holland  
 Represented Great Britain against France, Italy and USA

Anton Matusevich  
 Won Teen tennis 14s Bolton International event (last UK winner was Andy Murray)  
 Won Sunderland Grade 2  
 Represented Great Britain against Sweden and France  
 Tennis Europe ranking 277

Nell Miller  
 Won National Winter Finals  
 Won British Tour event in Warwick  
 Qualified for her first £10k ladies tour event in Egypt beating a player ranked 900 in the world

Thomas Wright  
 ITF Junior ranking 515  
 National Championships 16s 2014 reached last 16

Olivia Parson  
 18s Nationals consolation runner-up

Sasha Hill  
 Qualified for Winter National finals  
 Tennis Europe 14s ranked 189

Alaia Rubio-Perez  
 Qualified for National 10s finals where she finished 8th

Sofia Johnson  
 Runner-up in Grade 2 at Gosling  
 Runner-up in Grade 2 at Bolton  
 Qualified for National 10s final where she finished 5th

Kristina Paskauskaite  
 Qualified for National 10s final where she finished 3rd

Carl Holder  
 Won international mini red tournament in France

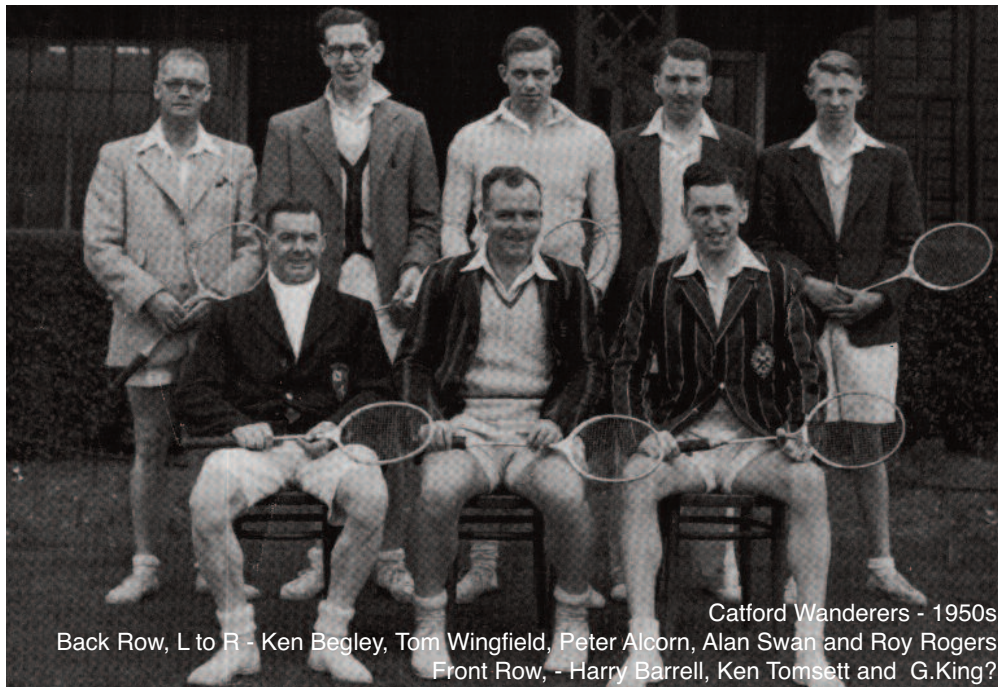
Lois Newberry  
 Won Kent 8U Red Winter County Closed



Above Left: Emma Raducanu  
 Above: Anton Matusevich  
 Below: Nell Miller



# Kent Mens Veterans Finals 2015



Cufford Wanderers - 1950s  
Back Row, L to R - Ken Begley, Tom Wingfield, Peter Alcorn, Alan Swan and Roy Rogers  
Front Row, - Harry Barrell, Ken Tomsett and G.King?

Finals day was held at the Bromley Tennis Centre in March and as always, played out with the pride and passion that these Kent veterans thrive on. Take the Mens 65 and over with Bromley pair Peter Pharo and Peter Long taking on the holders Keith Clark and Gary Sims who hold the enviable record of never ever having been beaten in a 60 or 65 Doubles final. And believe me, they have played in quite a few. The match was the only three setter of the afternoon, first set to Keith and Gary 6-4, and then a massive turnaround with the Peters galloping through the second set 6-1. Was a big surprise about to happen? Of course not, the Herne Bay boys moved up a gear and ran out comfortably on a third set 6-1 score. One felt lots of sympathy for Peter Pharo as earlier he had lost the 65 Singles 6-3, 7-6 after a close battle of the left handers against Jonathan Potter. These guys impressed with some attractive sorties at the net, which is nice to see these days. More discomfort for PP followed when again partnering Peter Long they also lost to the younger pair Rob Andrew and Robin Garratt in the 60 Doubles Final. Mr Pharo still looked as fresh as a daisy after three tough strength sapping matches, but I wonder how he felt the day after?

John Watton defending his 45 Singles for the sixth year found himself facing a young challenger in the shape of Adrian Moll. A bridge too far for JW this year as La Fitness player Adrian triumphed 6-3 6-2. For John it is farewell to the 45s and he seemed more at ease later in the 55s final where with regular partner Clive Best they cantered home 6-1 6-1 over Peter Ford and Chris Merrick. Where singles are concerned Bob Whitehead and Bob Milner are truly kings of the court. And yes they continued their reign. Bob Whitehead had too much power and experience for Chris Mackenzie winning 6-1, 6-2 in the 60 final. Bob Milner and Stephen Woodley have had so many battles that they must know each others game inside out. Milner proved the master once again in the 70 Singles winning 6-2, 6-2.

A very much slimmed down and more relaxed Phil Lynch with young Mr Arun Vethakkan beside him saw off best friends and fellow HSBC/Wendover mates Jeff Richards and Hamid Irshad on a score of 6-3, 6-3 to retain their 45 Final. It's quite extraordinary that Arun, now in his sixties can still mix it with players two decades below him age wise. Then again, this little fellow is no ordinary player. The final event, Mens 70 doubles went to holders Denis Costelloe and Derek Taylor who had a walkover against Vic Chance and Colin Dancey

Colin Dancey as he has done for many years organised the competition and Austin Smith, Kent President was on hand to present the prizes.





Catford Wanderers - NK Champions 1997

Back Row, L to R - Brian Griffith, Mark Smith, Steve Doyle and Denis Costelloe

Front Row, - Angela Rezki, Andrea Leeming, Kristy Leeming, Lisa Lowe, Janet Broster and Karen Jackson

## Around The Courts in 80 Ways

The LTA have given the green light to initiating an Inter County for Men of 80 years and over. At present we have: a Mens 75 and a Ladies 70 competitions and there is a request to get the 80 Mens underway. One suspects that it will be given a trial run this year although at present we are not sure if Kent are entering. This begs the question – are there Men over 80 at your club who are still playing a reasonable game and who would enjoy the challenge to represent Kent? From my travels I can name four players who are still playing all the year round and at a good standard as well. They are Lionel Hoskins of Herne Bay, Geoff Lawley of David Lloyd Club Dartford, David Thomas from the Crescent Club and Victor Sims at Sundridge Park.

Are there more one asks?

## Our Ladies Four

There are four of us who come to play, now that the days are long.

We meet to volley, lob and smash, as winter time has gone.

At first we chat re this and that, on fashion we report.

Then wearing shirts and comfy shorts, we slowly walk on court.

Poor Madge has arthritis, and Joan has slipped a disc.

Judys knees are dodgy, and oh -- my painful wrist.

We play our game at gentle pace, we never chase a lob.

Serve and volley well out of place, in case our knees might throb.

We never shriek, we never grunt, like ladies of to day.

No double handed backhands, no that's not the way to play.

Its sorry Madge and good shot Joan, and "yours" is shouted free.

For when we end, we shake as friends, then eat our cakes with tea.

### North Kent Winter Results

2014/15

	MENS	LADIES	MIXED	MID-WEEK MIXED
<b>Division 1</b>	Bromley Wendover 1	Blackheath 1	Bromley Wendover 1	Bexley 1
<b>Division 2</b>	Crescent 1	Parklangley 1	Oakwood 1	Hayes
<b>Division 3</b>	Parklangley 2	Knockholt 1	Catford Wanderers 2	
<b>Division 4</b>	Bexley 3	Wickham Park 2	Wickham Park 3	
<b>Division 5</b>	Wickham Park 2	Meopham 2		
<b>Division 6</b>	Sidcup Recreation			



# WINNING SERVICE

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OFFICIAL SUPPLIER







Tonbridge Tennis Club  
Last Days on the Sports Ground 1992

## Margate Super-Vets Land Great Win Vs Gravesend

When Margate's over 70s Super-Vets tennis team faced their Gravesend counterparts on home turf intense tennis seemed inevitable. And it became a potential clash of the titans as both club teams included three players from Kent squads, providing intense but friendly rivalry.

With the home advantage of playing on Margate's new artificial clay surface seemingly lost at first, Margate's first pairing of Keith Clark and team captain John Hills promptly went two games down. But they fought heroically back to take the first set without dropping a further game. Clark and Hills then repeated the process to win the second set by the same margin, taking their rubber 6-2, 6-2.

Franklyn Welsh and George Buckmaster, Margate's second pairing had a battle on their hands in their first rubber but eventually triumphed, just edging the first set on a tie-break at 7-6. They then repeated the process to take the rubber and give Margate a great lead of 2-0 at the break.

In the reverse matches, Clark and Hills easily brushed aside the Gravesend side's second pairing 6-2, 6-1. But despite battling hard, Welsh and Buckmaster fell to the Gravesend first pair, losing 1-6, 2-6, despite the heroics in their first rubber.

Despite Welsh and Buckmaster's struggle in the second rubber, Margate were triumphant overall in the match, taking the tie by three rubbers to one. And considering the tough competition, it was a good scalp for Margate to take. Now, the Margate pairs await the outcome of other league matches to see if they have won their section.

*John Taylor, Chairman*

## Kent Tennis Small Loans Scheme

Does your club need funds to improve its facilities? Are you struggling to complete an important project? Then please consider whether a loan from Kent Tennis might help. Loans will normally be made for amounts between £1000 and £5000 at 0% interest but loans up to £10000 might be considered in exceptional circumstances. Loans will not generally exceed 75% of the total cost of the project and are repayable within 5 years.

- Loans can be available for improvements to facilities and to aid increasing participation, but not to cover day-to-day running costs or expected maintenance and repairs etc.
- Loans will normally only be made available to clubs and venues who have attained TennisMark or Clubmark accreditation
- Applicants will need to provide copies of their financial statements or accounts for the last 2 years
- Loans will only be available for venues affiliated to Kent Lawn Tennis Association

Initial enquiries should be directed to our treasurer Nigel Jordan by



# Keeping In Touch

## [www.kenttennis.net](http://www.kenttennis.net)

Kent Tennis News Articles - If you want the publicity, it is up to you to send us your news, we're always happy to receive submissions.

### **Guidelines for Website News:**

- 1 A heading eg: 'Kent U14 Girls - National Champions'
- 2 1-10 words for the front page to entice people to open the article eg: 'Kent Men Cup County Champions'
- 3 Up to 100 words about the topic.
- 4 A photo – this is a must, with captions and names.
- 5 Be aware that Kent News stays on the front page for one week only. LTA Central Media says news older than a week is old news and so it disappears from the front page but still can be found by clicking on the news tab.

*To clarify how this differs from an article for the KLT.*

### **Guidelines for the KLT:**

We are now publishing the newsletter in print and electronically two times per year in May and October in an effort to keep the news and results as up to date as possible, as well as continuing with some of the features that have remained popular over the years.

In general terms an article of 300 words will constitute a full page with 600 words making a double page spread. Please remember that people don't generally want to read huge slabs of text. Make the article light and entertaining bringing it to life with a picture or two, which must have either a caption, names or both.

*Please send your submissions to: [kltnews@silvester.co.uk](mailto:kltnews@silvester.co.uk)*

The deadline for the next edition is 30th September 2015



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*KLT Editorial Panel: Jane Short (Chair of Publicity),  
Graham Silvester, Editor (Design & Production)*

