



Spring 2019

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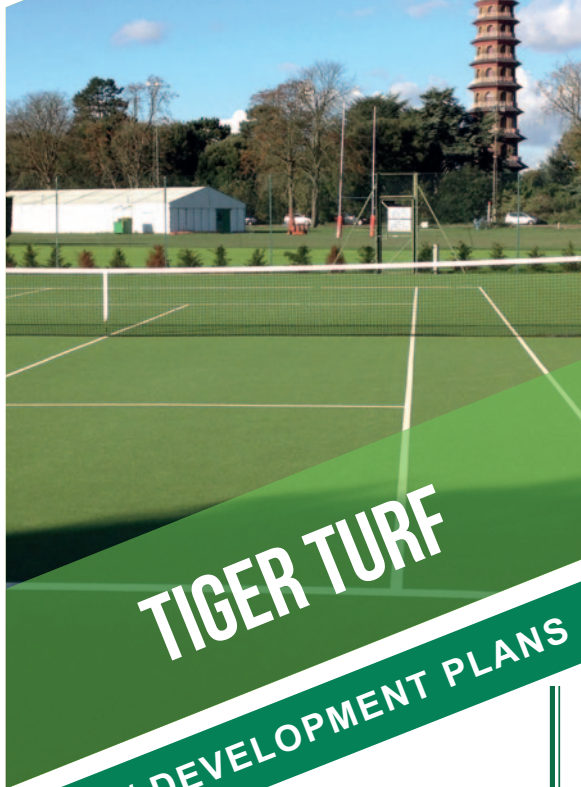
# AT THE SURFACE OF SPORT

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AT THE SURFACE OF SPORT



Welcome to our new look KLT. We have divided our news into sections about awards, County teams, juniors, schools, leagues, seniors, clubs and coaches along with some special features. The focus of this edition is the Kent Tennis Awards and Annual Dinner, and the fantastic news that Kent has five LTA Regional Award winners, four of which are also National Finalists, who will attend the National Ceremony at Wimbledon on 2 July. We wish them luck and will report in the Autumn edition.

You may have noticed that the LTA has launched its new branding and vision of 'Tennis Opened up'. On page 50 we outline the new vision. This has encouraged us to take a fresh look at what we should be doing and highlight the various initiatives that we feel are important to us in 2019. We reconfigured our Kent Plan embracing all the LTA's key focus areas and must be doing something right, as we understand that our plan format is now being adopted by all County Associations.

As always, we have some great reports from our County team captains, including some from 2018 which were left out of the last edition by mistake. Our new section dedicated to, and about, juniors highlights the amazing success of our younger players, a focus on junior tennis leaders and fun features about tennis bag essentials and a recipe for a healthy snack. Similarly, a new section about seniors includes individual player achievements, and the Kent Seniors Singles and Doubles Competition.

Oakwood Tennis Club leads the clubs section, being Kent and LTA Regional Club of the Year and National Finalist. They are the host of the 2019 Kent Tennis Day on 21 September open to all Kent players. News also about a Royal visit to a Kent club, a 35 year club anniversary, a 24 year anniversary and a club upgrading its lights.

Enjoy your read. As ever we welcome your contributions for our KLT and encourage you to share your tennis news on social media.



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KENT TENNIS

## Contents

Kent Tennis Awards 2018	Page 4
County Teams	Page 9
Sadie Bristow Foundation	Page 23
Juniors	Page 24
Schools	Page 34
Leagues	Page 35
Seniors	Page 36
Clubs	Page 38
Officials	Page 47
Coaches	Page 48
Features	Page 50
Obituaries	Page 52
Keep In Touch	Page 55

# Kent Tennis Awards 2018



The Kent Tennis Annual Awards Dinner took place on Saturday 2nd March 2019 at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel near Maidstone. 180 people attended the sold-out evening to see 15 awards presented for achievements in 2018 or, in the case of the Lifetime Achievement award, for contribution made over a longer period. Those short listed in each category were invited to the dinner and the winners were announced by the Kent Tennis President, Vanessa Webb, when she opened the envelope, 'Oscars' style.

Guests enjoyed a welcome drink and a two course dinner followed by dancing to the Oliver Twist band. It was a great opportunity for tennis people around the county to get together.

All those short listed for Kent Tennis awards are offered the chance to buy Wimbledon tickets as a reward for their achievement and a thank you for their hard work within tennis in Kent.

The winners in 10 categories were put forward to the British Tennis South East Regional Awards, which were announced in April, and we are delighted that five Kent award winners were successful at this stage. Their Regional Awards will be presented at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, during the Nature Valley International Tournament in late June. The winners have now been put through to the National Awards, which will be announced during the Wimbledon Championships, and we know that Kent has 4 National Finalists; Luke House (Coach), Oakwood TC (Club), Jimmy's Tennis (Disability), Deal Parochial Primary School (Education).

Please see the table for details of all Kent and South East Regional winners.

Trevor May, a sponsor, supports the Club of the Year Awards by providing vouchers to the winners. Tennisys, also a sponsor, donated the prize for the Education winner.

Thank you to Mary Evans, Janice White, John Ratcliffe, Clare Lilley, Graham Silvester and Sandi Procter who put in a huge amount of work organising the Kent Tennis Awards and Dinner.

Make your nominations for the 2019 Awards on the LTA website from September.

*John Ratcliffe*



Peter Stotesbury, Lifetime Achievement Award

Award	Winner/Shortlist /Regional Winner/National Finalist
Junior Player	<b>Anton Matusевич</b> Hugo Coquelin Emma Raducanu
Player	<b>Jasper Cooper</b> Marcia Ackers Hazel Lindfield
Junior Team	<b>18U Girls County Cup Team (presented at Bromley Tennis Centre)</b>
Team	<b>Men's 35s County Cup Team</b>
Club 1-4 Courts	<b>Brenchley and Matfield LTC</b>
Club 5-8 Courts	<b>Oakwood Tennis Club - Regional Winner - National Finalist</b> Avenue Tennis Bromley Tennis Centre
Coach	<b>Luke House (Shooters Hill LTC) - Regional Winner - National Finalist</b> Harry Bushnell (Parklangley) Toby Churchill (Deal ITC)
Official	<b>Charlie Falconer</b> Nick Wibberley
Competition	<b>Kent County Championships</b>
Education	<b>Deal Parochial CE Primary School - Regional Winner - National Finalist</b> Dartford Grammar School for Girls
Disability Programme	<b>Frindsbury LTC/Jimmy's Tennis - Regional Winner - National Finalist</b> Bromley Tennis Centre
Community	<b>Kings Hill Community Tennis Club</b> Willett Rec Tennis
Young Person	<b>Marcelle Lowe (Gravesham LTC)</b> Jack Beresford-Allan (Shooters Hill LTC) Liam Tullis (Deal ITC)
Volunteer	<b>Nigel Jordan (Old Wilsonians LTC)</b> Mimi Hoffman (Horsmonden LTC) Jo Thomas (Shooters Hill LTC)
Lifetime Achievement	<b>Peter Stotesbury (The Parklangley Club) - Regional Winner</b> David Ash (The Parklangley Club)

*For full details of all award winners please visit our website.*



Regional Award Winners were presented to the Duchess of Gloucester at The Fed Cup in April

# <sup>6</sup> Kent Tennis Awards 2018



Anton Matusevich, Junior Player



Brenchley and Matfield, Club 1-4 Courts



Marcelle Lowe, Young Person



Nigel Jordan, Volunteer



Men's 35s County Cup, Team



Kent County Championships, Competition



Oakwood, Club 5+ Courts



Deal Parochial CE Primary, Education



Luke House, Coach



Jasper Cooper, Player



Kings Hill Community Tennis Club, Community



Frindsbury LTC/Jimmy's Tennis, Disability Programme



## Jimmy's Tennis

*Article by Sam Richardson  
from LTA Colleague News.*

Award-winning Tennis For Kids coach meets his inspiration at the National Tennis Centre.

Earlier this month I received a rather uplifting email from Jim Barton, a Tennis For Kids (TFK) coach. Jim had attended the Tennis For Kids (TFK) coach training days for the past few years, where he met British wheelchair tennis player and TFK mentor, Alfie Hewett. So inspired from the training, he went on to set up a Disability programme in Kent, which has won both County and Regional awards. Here's Jim's email:

"Over the last two years I have, via the TFK programme, been lucky enough to spend a little time on court with Alfie Hewett. I was very impressed with this youngster's determination and ability to shine at all tasks that he was given...I'm a newish coach and I left NTC with a lasting impression. Subsequently, I started a 'tennis for all' programme from scratch. It has grown from strength to strength, young and old, with varying assistance given to all players by myself and my team. We have grown our programme to over 100 supported players per week and we receive numerous thank you's on a regular basis, with requests to add to our programme. Today I was told that 'Jimmy's Tennis - Frindsbury LTC' had won the regional award for its disability programme. It's a thank you to Alfie for the inspiration he has passed on to this particular coach. Alfie, thank you and keep up the great work you show to all around you."

I was so impressed with the email that I sent it to Alfie, who invited Jim and his son, Alex, to come to the NTC to meet him and watch him train.

Following the meeting, Jim said he left feeling even more inspired to continue his fantastic work in Kent. This story is a shining example of opening tennis up and demonstrates the impact we can have when we are aligned with our wider tennis network!



# County Teams

## *Craig bows out as Team Captain*

After 23 years as a Kent coach and County team captain, Craig Allen has moved on to a role in the LTA Performance team. As a loyal, committed and very successful captain and coach for so long, we, in Kent Tennis, owe him a big thank you.

Craig started playing tennis at the Bat and Ball Club in Gravesend. He was helping with coaching when he was 16, passed his first coaching qualification at 17 and subsequent qualifications shortly after. He knew he wanted to be a coach and when he left school took on a reception job at the Record Tennis Centre in Gravesend which gave him the opportunity to coach as well.

At 23, he was invited to be involved in the County training programme supporting Clint Harris, the County Performance Coach. He assisted with the 18U Kent boys team in 1997/98 and in 1999 took on the captaincy of the 13U Kent boys team, later to become the 14U team. In the early days County Cup was the most important event on any county player's calendar. He feels the event lost its importance for a while but has been refreshed and regained its status. He says; "Most of the year juniors play on their own for themselves, but when they get together for County Cup, many seem to achieve better results than they do for the rest of the year".

Craig has had considerable success with his various teams which have reached the Finals on numerous occasions - winning the title once in 2013 and runner-

up in 2018, plus 3rd, 4th, 5th and 7th. In his first year with the 13Us, his star-studded team of Nick Cavaday, Miles Kasiri, Jack Baker and James Langford played against North of Scotland including an 11 year old Andy Murray and gained promotion to Division 1 (previous format). The National Champions team in 2013 were James Davis, Nick Brookes, Matt Summers, Jonah Smith, Ethan O'Reilly and Daniel Goodwin. They beat Surrey in the final 4-0, which was outstanding.



Craig said his favourite years were when the boys team and girls team were at the Finals together. They travelled together, supported each other and had enormous fun.

Thanks, Craig, for being a great captain and hope you enjoy your new role.



# County Teams

## County Cup

A wonderful event run by the LTA which gives players the opportunity to represent their county in team competition against other counties at Regional and National stages.

It is a huge honour to be selected for a County Cup team and Kent has a proud record of achievement. Last year Kent's 10U Boys and 18U Girls as well as the Ladies Winter County Cup teams were National Champions. County Cup events are held at different times of the year at various venues around the country. In order to compete, players have to be selected by their county. There are separate County Cup competitions in six age groups: Open (Men's and Ladies), 18U, 14U, 12U, 10U and 9U. Players selected compete in both singles and doubles against other counties.

Selection for Kent's County teams takes place a few months before each event and is based on many factors including a player's rating, ranking, performance in competition and training, and attitude. All selections are subject to approval by the Kent Performance Group.

*If you have any questions or queries regarding the County Cup competitions or selections please contact Harri Izzard on [harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk](mailto:harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk)*

## 10U Girls County Cup 2018 Qualifying Round

**26 & 27 May 2018 at Pav & Ave TC, Brighton.**

**Captain:** Harry Bushnell

**Team:** Chloe Chea, Chloe Cleaver,  
Celia Foster, Eloise Newberry.

**Results:** Kent beat Gloucestershire 6-2, beat Hants & IOW 8-0, beat Sussex 4-4 (winning the tie break shoot out), beat Wiltshire 8-0. Kent won their group and progressed to Stage 2.

After sitting out for the first round and scouting our opponents, we started with confidence and Eloise in particular, got off to a truly amazing start against the Gloucestershire player who had beaten her the previous year. Eloise was relentless in taking the first set in no time at all.

By this time both Chloes had taken to the courts and they wasted no time in getting the first set under their belts. In fact, by the time I'd gone on to check on Eloise, who was now starting to waver, both Cleaver and Chea playing at 2 and 3 respectively, had already wrapped up both of their matches in just over half an hour!

This meant that if Eloise could clinch her match on the third set tie break, we would have already won what we thought was going to be tough competition. It went back and forth with both girls playing their best tennis,

but Eloise clinched the match and earned the win.

The match against Sussex was one of the craziest I have ever seen. All three of our girls were on at the same time and, once more, all of them got off to blistering starts. We were a set up in both Eloise and Chloe Cleaver's matches and Celia was being pushed all the way but still had her nose in front and won the first set on a tiebreak. However, within the next twenty minutes we went from looking like we were going to win the match on the singles, to being close to losing the match on the singles! We now had a real battle on our hands.

Eloise dug it out in typical 'Eloise' fashion, but Chloe was edged out and Celia was now 1-8 in the final set tiebreak. Could she do the impossible and turn the deficit around? Of course she could - and she went on to win 10-8, winning nine points in a row! We were exhausted by this point but knew we had a doubles match to play to secure the win.

The doubles was another rollercoaster, but our girls never got going and we lost the match, which meant we had to go back out and play a shootout. We were confident in both Eloise and Chloe Cleaver and selected them to play again, but not after a few stern words. Against the same pair, they won with ease to put us on the verge of qualifying for the third straight year.

The following day was a bit of an anti-climax, we had played and won against our two main rivals so Sunday was all about getting the job done. The girls did that without dropping a set and very few games, they were clinical and we were off to Sunderland (AGAIN!).

## ...and at the Finals

### 8 to 10 June in Sunderland

**Results:** Kent beat South Wales 8-0, beat Lincolnshire 8-0, lost to Middlesex 6-2. Kent finished second in their group and played Surrey for 3rd/4th position losing 4-4 (losing the tie break shoot out) to finish 4th nationally.

The first match in the finals was against South Wales who were the second seeds. We fancied our chances as we genuinely felt at home in Sunderland after the success of the last few years and we were confident we had a great team.

The girls absolutely smashed it winning every match to win 8-0. Chloe Chea was like a brick wall at three, Chloe Cleaver started to play with confidence at two and Eloise who was in Sunderland for a third straight year led the team to victory at one. It was the perfect start and we would go into day two with the belief we could win the competition.

Day two saw us take on Lincolnshire and it was a similar pattern again, much to the delight of everyone. We once again took every rubber against our opponents, the matches were tougher but the girls were relentless

and we had one match to go in the groups which would determine which place we would be contesting on the third and final day against Middlesex.

Chloe Chea was up first, her opponent played flawless tennis, Chloe couldn't have done anymore and was unable to match her opposite number, losing the match in straight sets. Chloe Cleaver had an equally difficult time and we fell further behind, which meant that Eloise had to win to keep us alive. In another match which went to the wire, Eloise managed to take the tiebreak and keep Kent in it; we now had to win the doubles to get through.

Unfortunately, it wasn't to be as Middlesex were simply the better team and qualified for the final. We were drawn to play against our old rivals Surrey for 3rd and 4th place. Always a tough one to get up for, the girls gave it their absolute all but lost to finish 4th overall. The Surrey number one in particular made life very difficult and the better team on the day won.

It was another incredible achievement and effort from our girls, well done to each and every one of them.

*The 2019 Qualifying events takes place over the weekend of 25th & 26th June.*



# County Teams

## 12U Boys County Cup 2018 Qualifying Round

**30 June & 1 July 2018 at Sundridge Park LTC**

**Captain:** Max Robinson

**Vice-Captain:** Jem Jones

**Team:** Pranav Devaguptapu,  
Ben Gusic-Wan, Ulrich Nienaber,  
Timothy Viding.

**Results** Beat Wiltshire 3-1, lost to Sussex 0-4, beat Hampshire & IOW 4-0. Placed 2nd overall.

With temperatures soaring to 31 degrees on both days, the Kent team knew it was going to be a very physical tournament and were prepared for the battle. We took on Wiltshire in the first round on Saturday and got off to a flying start with singles wins from Ben and Timmy in relatively quick succession. Ulrich went to a third set tiebreak but unfortunately lost his opening match. Pranav and Ben had a convincing win in the doubles. We beat Wiltshire 3-1 and were looking strong going into the second round against Sussex.

Sussex were clearly up for the challenge and were well aware that both counties were favourites to win the event and that the winner of this round would likely be the winners overall. Unfortunately, Kent were not as upbeat as their opposition and it showed in their respective matches with Ben and Timmy losing both singles rubbers. Pranav showed some good qualities and put up a fight against the Sussex no.3 but fell short in the 3rd set tiebreak. In the doubles, whilst the match had some good points and some good volleying from Timmy at the net, overall, they lacked self-belief.

On day two, Kent beat Hampshire and IOW in a one-sided affair with a victory of 4-0. Ben showed his class and court awareness and outplayed his opponent in record time. Timmy and Ulrich both had tough matches but showed some grit and determination taking both singles matches in the 3rd set tiebreaks. Pranav and Ulrich wanted to play the doubles and did not disappoint taking the match 0 & 0.

Kent were up against Gloucestershire in the final round of County Cup and it was the last year that I would captain the team, so a win is what was asked for and a win is what the boys produced. Ben had a solid start to the match by winning the first set but lost the second in extremely windy conditions. He raised his game, took a convincing lead and never looked back and won the tiebreak. Ulrich and Pranav barely lost a game in their singles matches and gave Kent a clean sweep in singles. Ben and Timmy went on to play the final doubles match, but I think tiredness had a part to play as they lost in a close match.

I wish to thank all the parents once again for their support, our Vice-Captain Jem Jones for his commitment to the team over the weekend and the great support from Kent staff and officials and the members of Sundridge Park who were excellent hosts.

*The next event for this team is County Cup 2019 on 29 - 30 June 2019*



## 14U Boys County Cup 2018 Qualifying Round

**5 to 7 May 2018 in Harlow, Essex**

Captain: Craig Allen  
Vice-Captain: Mark Ruffle

Team: Hugo Coquelin, Tommy Harrison,  
Rory Marles, Matthew Pickering,  
Joshua Ward, Vaughan Watson.

**Results:** Lost to Devon 3-3 (shoot-out); beat Essex 3-3 (shoot-out), beat Northumberland 5-1, beat Cambridgeshire 6-0. Won on countback and qualified for Finals.

Against Devon, Vaughan and Hugo won the first two singles, then Tommy and Matthew lost theirs, both in three sets. Tommy's match lasted over three hours and was against one of the top players in the country. Hugo and Matthew took an overnight lead with a convincing straight sets win. Tommy and Vaughan lost their doubles the next day. The match score was 3-3, so it went to a shoot-out which was won by Devon.

Against Essex, Vaughan lost in three sets, Hugo won in two, Matthew lost in two. Tommy lost the first set 6-7 but then dug deep and won in three. After enduring the sweltering heat throughout their matches, I let the boys choose the doubles pairings. After a remarkable win by Tommy with Josh, a loss for Hugo with Matthew

we were in tie-break shoot-out territory again but thankfully Tommy and Hugo won it.

After two long nail-biting matches we were now looking at two matches in one day; we needed to win both and for Devon to lose. We played all the singles first and were 3-1 up against Northumberland and 4-0 against Cambridgeshire. Essex had beaten Devon in a shoot-out so it was up to our doubles players to get the best count back result and remarkably, Kent won them all.

It was one of the most incredible efforts from a Kent team I have witnessed in my many years involved in Kent tennis. The crowd were all supporting Devon and Cambridgeshire but this seemed to spur our boys on and what the boys achieved was truly heroic. Tommy and Matthew played superbly and won comfortably. Hugo and Vaughan lost the first set and for the first time in the weekend Hugo, who is only 12, showed some cracks and having been undefeated all weekend he was understandably tired and emotional. I did something I haven't done before and took him to one side to give him his own private motivational speech. Within 45mins they had won the second set 6-2 and had raced to match point in the tie break with a 9-4 lead in the decider. I can't remember the match point, I just recall everyone screaming with joy and disbelief that we had pulled it off!

An unlikely result became reality and throughout a gruelling schedule in extreme temperatures the boys showed they were up to the challenge. Thank you to all the supporting parents. It helped a lot and I am pleased that parents witnessed their efforts first-hand.



# County Teams

## *...and at the Finals*

### **18 to 20 May 2018 in Nottingham**

We kicked off against Yorkshire and both Vaughan and Matthew both won convincingly in straight sets. Hugo and Tommy were up next, and despite Hugo taking the first set, he unfortunately lost in 3. Tommy struggled to find his timing and lost in straight sets. The same successful doubles pairings from qualifiers delivered faultless displays to seal the tie 4-2.

Against Cumbria, Matthew and Vaughan once again did a great job in getting the team off to the perfect start with comfortable straight set victories. Hugo found his opponent too strong and lost in 2 sets. Tommy was up against a very tough player, who edged ahead in a tight first set 7-6. In the second set Tommy managed to break and take the set 7-5. His opponent looked stronger in the 3rd, whilst Tommy started to cramp and lost the third set 3-6. In the doubles both pairs went a set down, but Hugo and Vaughan managed to take the match to a decider, whilst Tommy and Matthew still appeared tired from the day before and lost in straight sets. Hugo and Vaughan rallied hard together in the third and got the result to take the match to a shoot-out. Tommy and Hugo stepped up for their third shoot-out but found the opposition too strong and we lost the tie.

We needed to beat Avon by at least 4-2 to qualify for

the Final! It was decided to rest Hugo. Rory stepped in at 4, although looking a little nervous he started okay, but unfortunately his opponent looked more confident and took the match 6-2, 7-5. Vaughan continued to impress with another straight sets win to even the tie. Both Matthew and Tommy won their first set on a tie break. Matthew fought hard but his opponent took the match 6-7, 6-2, 6-4. Tommy battled to a 7-6, 7-5 win, to even the tie. The boys then won both doubles to reach the national final.

The final was against Hertfordshire. Vaughan and Matthew were first up again. Vaughan had a tough one and fought hard from 1-6 1-4 to lose in 3. Matthew continued his best performance winning 6-2 6-2 to level the tie. A well-rested Hugo was narrowly edged out 7-6, 6-2. We needed Tommy to find one of his best County Cup performances to keep the tie within reach, but despite his best efforts he couldn't find the performance from the day before and lost 7-5, 6-4. It was simple; we had to win two very tough doubles to force a shoot-out, Josh teamed up with Hugo at second pair, along with Tommy and Matthew at one. Hugo and Josh gave their all and played some really aggressive tennis, but it was Hertfordshire's year as they went on to win 7-5, 6-3.

This group of boys were awesome and we are very proud of them!! Thank you to the parents for their support, I'm sure you will agree you saw some very exciting matches.



## *This year, 14U Boys County Cup 2019 Qualifying*

**4 to 6 May 2019 at Hassocks, West Sussex**

**Captain:** Zane Cheeseman

**Vice-Captain:** Tom Jarvis

**Team:** Alexis Chastang Hugo Coquelin,  
Ben Gusic-Wan, Rory Marles,  
Ulrich Nienaber, Matt Pickering

**Results:** Beat Suffolk 6-0, Beat Cornwall 6-0, Lost to Sussex 3-3 (Shoot-out) sadly didn't qualify for the National Finals .

Day 1. We arrived with a strong squad, feeling confident of a successful weekend. Our first match was against Suffolk and we started positively, with Matt and Rory winning their singles matches comfortably. 11yr old Ben and number 1 player Hugo went on court next and both won their singles easily. The doubles paired Ben and Matt together and Alexis and Ulrich, with both pairs performing well as the weather took a turn for the worse. 6-0 to Kent and a great start with all players having played a match.

On to Cornwall with the doubles first. Matt and Hugo, Rory and Alexis stepped on court and didn't disappoint, winning comfortably even with the wind and rain causing havoc. A great first day with 8 matches won out of 8.

Day 2. With 4 singles matches to play against Cornwall, 2 wins were needed to wrap the match up and the boys

didn't hang around. Alexis and Rory won their singles and Kent had beaten Cornwall. Matt and Hugo stepped on court knowing the result but wanting to keep the run on wins. Matt was too strong for his opponent and it was a great performance, as he was feeling ill. Hugo was in a battle as his opponent came out pumped up to get the win and took the first set, but Hugo came alive and fought back in the Kent spirit to win the match 10-4 in the champions tiebreak. End of day 2 and Kent had won 12 out of 12 matches.

Day 3. Big day against the home team, Sussex, and a win needed to make it to Nationals. Both teams were very pumped up; Sussex had lots of support, but Kent was still louder. The day started well with Matt and Rory out-powering their opponents to give Kent a 2-0 lead. Ben was next on court against a strong player and he showed great spirit and fight in the second set but couldn't secure the win. 2-1 to Kent. Hugo's opponent, who looked much older than 14, came out firing on all cylinders and didn't miss a ball for a set and a half. Hugo showed great spirit to push him in the 2nd set but the Sussex player was just too good on the big points. 2-2. Kent players got together for a big team chat ahead of the doubles and the boys felt confident. Matt and Hugo, Alexis and Rory stepped on court and Kent were ready to battle for the title. Hugo and Matt played a near perfect doubles and beat the Sussex 1st pair with ease. 3-2 to Kent. Alexis and Rory had a tight first set losing out on a tie-break and struggled to get going in the second set with their opponents playing well. It was 3-3 and a shoot-out. Matt and Alexis stepped up to try to bring it home for Kent and battled well but the Sussex pair, cheered on by their home crowd, were just too good for them, winning 10-3. A very tough result but all the boys gave it their all and as captain I was very proud of their efforts and team spirit over the 3 days.



# County Teams

## 14U Girls County Cup 2018 Qualifying

**5 & 6 May 2018 at Sutton Tennis Club**

**Captain:** Chantal Demichelli

**Vice-Captain:** Sophie Botham

**Team:** Skye Bentum -Siripi, Emily Bolton  
Anais Laaksonen- Fernandez,  
Nina Sherwen, Emma Slack,  
Katie Swindell

**Results:** Beat Buckinghamshire 5-1, Beat Derbyshire 5-1,  
Lost to Essex 0-6

We arrived first at the venue so were able to get a good practise and be ready for the first matches starting at 11:30am. We were in a group of three with only Buckinghamshire and Derbyshire. Our team was a little nervous starting as they were playing in higher order positions than expected due to the unavailability of two of our players. Skye, Anais and Nina all had comfortable wins, but Emma's nerves got the better of her in her first match. Emma then teamed up with Nina in the doubles and was able to relax and play some great

tennis to get a comfortable 6-2, 6-1 win against the Bucks number 1 pair. Anais and Skye kept us all on the edge of our seats before securing a 3rd set tie-break to win their match.

Against Derbyshire we played the doubles first and won them both easily. In the singles Skye and Anais won their singles comfortably, Emma had a nervous start and did well to turn the match around to take the win 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and Nina was unlucky to get the Derbyshire's number 1 player who was on fire.

Essex was a tougher proposition. Skye and Anais came up against extremely strong opponents and lost, Nina put up a great fight against the Essex no 1 and Emma narrowly lost 7-2 in the 3rd set tie break after 2.5 hours in sweltering heat. 4-0 down but Kent girls never give up and went on court with heads held high. Nina and Emma lost in a hard fought three-setter and Katie and Emily, who had supported the team all weekend, also lost.

Although we may have lost at the final hurdle, we would like to congratulate all the players on their effort, fight and good sportsmanship throughout the weekend. Thank you to the parents who came to support over the weekend – what great weather we had too!



## 14U Girls County Cup 2019 Qualifying

### 4 to 6 May at Banstead Downs LTC

Captain: Chantal Demichelli

Vice-Captain: Francesca Faulkes

Team: Skye Bentum -Siripi, Helen Coomber,  
Niamh Egan, Iris Nasir,  
Lois Newberry, Daniella Scotland

**Results:** Beat Somerset 5-1, beat Sussex 5-1, lost to Surrey 5-1

The County Cup journey started the Sunday before the event with a team training session, which helped with team bonding. This led the girls to create a what's app group which they used to decide what to wear during the event so that they co-ordinated their kit. This team spirit continued throughout the weekend.

#### Day 1 v Somerset

Even though this team was the weakest team in the group, girls had first day nerves and had to play through some horrendous weather conditions – sun, arctic winds, rain, hail and some snow! Kent managed to win 3 out of the 4 singles with Lois having a battle, coming through two very close sets 7-6, 7-6, and Kent won all the doubles comfortably. Kent was also scheduled to play the doubles matches against Sussex which were very important to get a good lead before the singles the next day. Niamh and Skye, Lois and Iris did a great job winning their doubles, with a great fight from Lois and Iris winning 10-6 in the 3rd set championship tiebreak.

#### Day 2 v Sussex

Iris and Lois were up first again for their singles with Iris winning comfortably and Lois pulling through on another championship tiebreak in the 3rd. Niamh and Skye were next up, with Skye narrowly losing 12-10 in a 3rd set championship tiebreak.

#### Day 3 v Surrey

Even though the final result was 5-1 to Surrey, the matches did not reflect the overall score at all.

All the girls competed superbly from start to finish with Lois again coming through an epic battle to win on another championship tiebreak 13-11 to keep Kent in with a shot of qualifying as the team went into the doubles. Unfortunately, Kent lost both doubles, after two closely fought matches.

Congratulations to all the girls, including Daniella who didn't get to play on this occasion, on their effort, professionalism, sportsmanship and support throughout the weekend. Thank you to the great support from all the Kent parents too.



# County Teams

## 18U Boys County Cup 2019

### 1 to 3 March 2019 at Bromley Tennis Centre (Group 2)

Captain: Alastair Filmer

Vice-Captain: Tom Jarvis

Team: Harvey Conway, Alex De Sousa, Will Everett, Tommy Harrison, Kristofer Johnson, Oliver Matthews, Jack Pinnington-Jones, Luke Ralph, Oliver Richards, Archie Turner



**Results:** Won against Warwickshire, 7-2 and West of Scotland, 5-4. Lost 4-5 to Sussex

#### Day 1 v Sussex

A great start, with Oli Matthews winning 6-0, 6-0, followed by Alex De Sousa with another win. Kristofer Johnson lost 6-7, 4-6, despite showing characteristic fight. Will Everett lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 and Harvey Conway went down in a hard-fought affair in two close sets. Jack Pinnington-Jones, playing at number 1, won an important match, with set 3 going to a tiebreak 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(5). The pump was real, rallies intense and hearts racing!

Making his 18U debut, doubles specialist Tommy Harrison, and partner Oli Matthews battled hard at third pair but lost in a final set break. Sussex's first pairing of two brothers beat Conway and Everett. Sussex now had an unassailable 5-3 lead. Pinnington-Jones and De Sousa proved too strong at number 2, wrapping up the day with a 4 and 4 victory, but overall 4-5 loss for Kent.

#### Day 2 v Warwickshire

Oli Matthews secured his second win of the campaign 6-1, 6-1. Making his 18U debut, Oli Richards playing at number 5 won comfortably 6-2, 6-1 and set Kent up with a 2-0 lead. Alex, playing at 4, battled through to beat a very strong Warwickshire player, 6-3, 7-6 (5). Next up, Will played against a very talented opponent who claimed the first set only dropping 1 game. Will didn't give up without a fight but lost 6-1, 6-4. Harvey's forehand wasn't firing as well as planned and he lost 6-4, 6-2. Last to go on, Jack took the first set decisively but couldn't take the second. It was all or nothing for the third and he came through with a 6-0, 4-6, 7-6 victory to put Kent up 4-2. With a change to doubles pairings, Harvey and Oli Matthews got the win at third pair against Warwickshire's finest partnership. The doubles at 1 and 2 were sparkling at times and both matches went to Kent in straight sets.

#### Day 3 v West of Scotland

Knowing that a win against the Scots and a loss for Sussex could mean promotion for Kent, the boys turned up for practice with a renewed sense of hunger! Oli Matthews took the first match 6-0, 6-2. Next up Oli Richards only let his opponent win a total of 5 games and continued his unbeaten run. At number 4 Alex won comfortably 6-0, 6-4. Number 3, Will arrived on court full of confidence after sealing the win for Kent on day 2 but couldn't keep the winning streak, succumbing 4-6, 4-6. Harvey lost the first set to love but with a look of determination managed to steal the second set 7-6. The atmosphere was unreal from both teams and both players were pumped for the third set. Harvey managed to take the third set to a tiebreak. Despite the pressure Harvey came through with a 0-6, 7-6, 7-6 win. Jack got off to a flying start with a break in hand but couldn't capitalise, losing 4-6, 7-6, despite putting up a great fight. Kent went into the doubles looking strong at 4-2 and needed just one doubles to seal the win. Tommy and Will lost 6-4, 6-1 but Harvey and debutant Archie Turner won 6-4, 6-0. This secured the win for Kent over West of Scotland and a place in Division 2 for another year. The boys fought hard throughout and if not for a fine Sussex performance would have been playing Division 1 tennis next year.

A big thanks to all the parents and supporters who came to watch and to the players who travelled from as far as Canterbury daily to play. A massive effort, which left the captains very proud.

## 18U Girls County Cup 2019

### 1 to 3 March 2019 at Bath University (Group 1)

Captain: Pippa Lane

Vice-Captain: Holly Richards

Team: Tiegan Aitken, Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale,  
Sasha Hill, Sofia Johnson,  
Georgia Lancaster, Alaia Rubio Pérez  
Summer Reeves, Emma Sawkings,  
Abby Taylor, Phoebe Watton

**Results:** Lost to Herts 4-5, lost to Yorkshire 3-6, lost to Middlesex 2-5

#### Day 1 v Herts.

Summer and Sofia were on court first in the 6 and 5 positions. Summer went to three sets but couldn't quite cross the line first and Sofia dominated at 5, winning comfortably in two sets. Phoebe Watton and Abby followed, with both giving there all but unfortunately unable to secure wins. After 4 singles rubbers, Kent was 1-3 down and hoping to level things with Tiegan at 2, but she was hit off court in straight sets. Sasha did well at 1 to take care of her opponent. Kent were down 2-4 after the singles so needing to win all three doubles. Sasha and Tiegan won at first doubles as did Sofia and Abby at 2. Luck ran out as we lost the third Doubles, and also the tie 4-5.

#### Day 2 v Yorkshire.

Emma and Sofia took to the courts first; Sofia taking a quick win at 5, Emma fought hard and battled back in the 2nd set but the tie was levelled 1-1. Phoebe W and Abby improved on yesterday's performances but couldn't get the wins needed, so again Kent found themselves 1-3 down in the singles. Sasha and Tiegan competed hard; Sasha was tested in the 2nd set but picked up a win, Tiegan unfortunately didn't and lost in 2. Kent were 2-4 down after the singles, with Sasha and Sofia the only winners again. Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale and Georgia played at 3rd doubles and competed well but lost, Abby and Sofia also lost at 2nd doubles, but Sasha and Tiegan pulled out a win at 1 doubles leaving Kent 3-6 losers on day 2.

#### Day 3 v Middlesex.

The team wasn't in the best of positions, starting the day knowing Kent couldn't possibly remain in Group 1 even if this match was won. The players wanted to finish strongly and needed to play their best tennis. Summer and Alaia went on at 5 and 6. Both girls fought hard in long matches, with great effort put in by both; Alaia losing in 3 and Summer in a tight 2 sets. Sofia took care of her opponent at 4 singles, Abby struggled with her form at 3 but kept fighting. Unfortunately, it was the same story with Kent 1-3 down. Tiegan lost at number 2 and Sasha picked up a win. Kent were 2-4 down after singles, the same as on day 1 and 2. Georgia and Abby went on at 3 doubles and Phoebe W partnered Sofia but the 3rd pairing lost and the match was over.

A hugely disappointing County Cup for Kent, but looking forward to getting back into Group 1 in 2020.



# County Teams

## County Representation

Here's to the Men of Kent and the Kentish Men who have represented our County at County Week down the years - 1895 to 2018

So, who are those men? Having managed to detail in previous KLTs our ladies and their Kent appearances I figured that the next best thing was to do a similar exercise with our men. Alas, I was hit by a large and very large obstacle. Whereas the ladies provided me with ledgers covering players, venues and results, no such ledgers could be found for the men. I find this anomaly very hard to believe. Having read the earlier match reports from such meticulous scribes as Charles Bailey, Jack Lake, Eric Hammer and Dick Robinson, surely the men's ledgers must be with someone somewhere? So, if you know where they might be or know a man who knows where they lie, I would be more than pleased to hear from you, as indeed would the Kent office team.

Nevertheless, I have attempted to dig out as much information as I can from various sources. Not the complete list I am sure, but it is the best I can do for all those who played for our County. It all began in 1895 when Kent entered the Inter-County competition for the first time, paying a 50p, ten shilling note to affiliate, and concludes after the Winter 2018 Inter County matches.

Below is a list of players and number of caps they have received:

Sir Keith Ajegbo (84) Rob Andrew (4) Rob Antoun (42) Gavin Arber (10) Herbert Baddeley (12) Stuart Baddeley (3) Wilfred Baddeley (12) Charles Bailey (79) Robert Bailey (17) Jack Baker (3) Henry Barlow (3) Richard Barwick (30) Claude Beater (8) Colin Beecher (80) William Bell (2) Henry Biggs (2) Ron Billings (4) Daniel Breag (2) Peter Bretherton (20) Paul Bourdon (124) Patrick Bowes-Lyon (3) Austin Brice (29) Nicholas Brookes (6) Martin Bromfield (4) Martin Bromley (1) A.Brown (36) D.Brown (12) K. B Brown (6) Noel Brown (23) Eric Bulmer (10) Andy Burgoyne (174) Lewis Burton (53) Frederick Canning (6) Stanton Card (10) Reginald Carr (12) Arthur Catty (12) Nick Cavaday (55) Victor Cazelet (6) Vic Chance (9) William Cobbold (6) Eric Coad-Prior (45) Zane Cheeseman (3) Joseph Clynton-Reid (4) Jas Collins (3) Arthur

Colquhoun (4) Harvey Conway (4) Paul Cook (4) Alan Corder (3) Sid Corder (5) Andrew Creighton (11) Henry Curties (4) Norman Dale (3) Arthur Daly (10) Colin Dancey (1) Brian Daniels (5) Graham Daniels (3) James Davies (21) Alan Davson (2) Herbert Dawes (2) Chris Day (12) Jack Deloford (50) Murray Deloford (34) Conrad Dinwiddy (15) Harry Dinwiddy (3) Charles Dobbs (32) Mike Dodge (28) Leonard Dodd (67) Neil Donnelly (61) Jamie Drummond (4) Ambrose Dudley (13) John Dufall (5) Wilberforce Eaves (13) Peter Elsdon (10) John Escombe (2) Bernard Etherington (3) Colin Evans (68) Nick Evans (8) Oliver Evans (9) Ray Fagan (5) Kevin Farrant (1) Alistair Filmer (55) John Fisher (23) William Findlay (30) Eddie Ford (95) Oliver Freelove (61) Norman Frye (28) Ted Frith (14) Dario Galasso (1) Malcolm Gibb (94) Ian Gibson (1) George Golding (2) William Glashier (2) Ken Graves (1) John Griffith (43) Stanley Grossmith (16) William Grossmith (13) Geoff Guntrip (33) Martin Guntrip (47) Peter Hannon (40) Colin Hardy (1) Clint Harris (34) Leslie Hausburg (2) David Hayman (2) Ronald Heatcote-Hacker (7) John Heath (4) Mike Hearn (2) George Hilton (4) Jonathan Hind (3) Cliff Hodson (26) Noel Holmes (14) Tim Hopper (11) Ed Horne (2) Clive Hutchings (1) Alfred Iglis (8) Kelvin Jackson (2) Oswald Jameson (6) Tom Jarvis (1) Jimmy Jones (22) Gareth Jones (26) Steve Joyce (11) Alex Juniper (1) Miles Kasiri (1) Tom Kenyon (2) Mike Kidwell (3) Algernon Kingscote (7) Arthur Kirby (11) Patrick Koscielski (8) Jack Lake (1) David Langridge (5) James Langford (5) John Larkin (6) Doug Lavis (3) Barry Leon (1) Lewis Levy (2) Jim Lewis (6) Frank Longstaffe (15) Edgar Lovell (2) Peter Lowther (6) Ian Mackay (23) Angus Mc Call (3) Justin Mc Cue (18) Jo Mc Gregor (2) James Mc Lachlan (18) Andrew McLennan (8) Billy McManus (38) James Markiewicz (5) David Martin (16) Ernest Meers (2) Steve Matthews (52) Jim May (96) Tom May (7) Paddy May (2) Bernard Mason (8) Charley Mason (3) Frank Mason (12) Laurence Milburn (2) William Milburn (2) Bob Milner (9) Robert Mitchell (4) John Mole (23) Nicky Morgan (6) Geoff Mountain (12) Hugh Nesbit (11) John Nixon (2) Clinton Nunes (20) Harold Ogden (3) K Oliver (8) R Oliver (9) Martin O'Neill (4) Ethan O'Reilly (1) Alex Osterrieth (29) Murray Parfitt (40) Frederick Payne (4) D.Payne (3) Alan Pearson (2) Victor Penman (54) Bert Pembro (25) Cecil (Sonny) Philcox (41) Brian Phillips (4) Lee Phillips (14) Charles Phipps (11) Albert Prebble (54) F.C.Price (16) Ray Price (17) W.C Price (10) G. Price (6) John Purchas (28) Peter Purves (15) John Quartier (6) Graham Reekie (2) Mike

Reynolds (57) F. Richardson (3) Roy Rogers (6) Paul Ryan (3) Francis Sargeant (18) Anthony Scragg (3) Rob Searle (119) Andrew Searle (3) Stuart Searle (2) Ronnie Shaves (17) Mark Sheldon (7) Dan Shirley (17) Bernard Smith (59) GS Smith (1) Jonathan Smith (1) Malcolm Smith (12) Vivian Smith (1) Doug Struthers (5) Will Shaw (6) Chris Steer (2) Matthew Short (40) Warwick Shute (34) Keith Spurgeon (72) Henry Standing (22) Frank Steven (3) John Stone (4) James Somerville (8) Michael Stotesbury (1) Isaac Stout (16) Mikey Suleau (3) Matthew Summers (24) Jonathan Tassell (3) Neil Taylor (5) Sam Taylor (2) Edward Timmins (7) Bobby Thorn (34) Sean Thornley (69) Ken Tomsett (8) Herbert Urry (16) WG Vilburn (1) Frank Walker (8) JJ Walsh (2) Danny Ward (19) Teddy Wates (31) John Watton (20) Stephen Weatherall (3) Chris Wells (77) Lewis Whitely (7) Bernard Whiteman (11) Oscar Wilson (27) Tom Wingfield (10) Stephen Woodley (67) Richard Whichello (114) Jeff Wright (9) Thomas Wright (13) James Zimmerman (2)

Finally let's turn to the top ten most capped players to play for Kent. In reverse order we start with Charles Bailey (79) Colin Beecher (80) Sir Keith Ajegbo (84) Malcom Gibb (94) Eddie Ford (95) Jim May (96) Richard Whichello (114) Rob Searle (119) Paul Bourdon (124) Andy Burgoyne (174).

Congratulations to all the players, to the Captains and especially to Andy Burgoyne with his massive 174 Kent caps. What a record - what a player - what a captain! Andy, you have come a long way from the first time I saw you as a 10-year-old playing tennis among the flower beds in Beckenham Place Park with a racket purchased from Grose and Company, Ludgate Circus. You are Mr Kent to those of us who have watched you play and for your enthusiasm, firepower and will to win you give to the players as a Captain. May your cries of "Come on the Garden" at Eastbourne and elsewhere ring out for some time to come.

*Denis Costelloe*



Andy Burgoyne

# County Teams

## County Training

County training enables the top players in age groups from 8U to 18U to train together with high level coaches running the sessions.

The ethos is to create a camaraderie and loyalty to county tennis where players gain the opportunity to work on tactics (especially in doubles) in a structure which links to selection for the County Cup teams. County training usually takes place on Sunday afternoons or evenings once a month from September until June each year (but there is no County training for 16U/18U age groups in February and March due to their County Cup events). The coach to player ratio is 1:4 to ensure the best quality training for players, and the squads range from 8 -12 players in the 9U - 18U age

groups to 32 in the 8U. The selection criteria include a player's rating, ranking, performance in competition and training, and attitude. All selections are subject to approval by the Kent Performance Group.

This year's training is coming to an end and has been extremely successful with over 150 players taking part from across the county. Preparations are now in motion for the 2019/20 County training programme with selection to commence in August 2019.

*If you have any questions or queries regarding the Kent County training programme, please contact Harri Izzard on [harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk](mailto:harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk)*



## Sandi Procter

We are pleased to announce that Kent's very own Sandi Procter (pictured above, front right) is to become the next Deputy President of the LTA when David Rawlinson takes over the role as President. Sandi was nominated by the LTA Board and ratified at the recent LTA AGM. She starts on 1st January 2020 as Deputy for 3 years, and President for 3 years. Sandi will be only the second female President of the LTA. She is following in the footsteps of Kent's Stuart Smith, who was LTA President 2006 to 2008. An interview and report will be in the next edition.

# Sadie Bristow Foundation

On 17th March 2019 the tennis communities of Canterbury and the nearby village of Bridge united in their first fundraising endeavour for The Sadie Bristow Foundation. The Foundation's aims are to raise awareness of allergies and provide schools with a sporting module of fundamental athletic movement and tennis.

The day spanned all ages, from youngsters on mini courts and popping their head through Buzz Lightyear cut-outs, to the more mature members who manned the cake sale or prepped what must have been the first barbeque of the year. The best part of the day was blessed with sunshine and, being St. Patrick's Day it can be put that down to the luck of the Irish, although there was a brief interlude of hail stones. One of the lovely ladies manning the raffle table quipped that we'd have to credit Sadie for the downpour; a reminder she was watching and having a little bit of a laugh at all of us.

Sadie's father and coach, Stewart, was grateful for the rain as it allowed him to have a quick snack and drink, at which point he was precisely half-way through his 12-hour tennis-athon. This was the main event with Stewart and his partner Jake Wilson taking on a new and fresh pair of doubles players every 25 minutes for 12 hours straight. It was a champion effort with only one draw.

The day, which was an astounding display of goodwill and good fun, is to be the first of many as The Sadie Bristow Foundation will encourage clubs around the county to host their own Sadie days. Funds raised will be used to train local nurses, educate the wider community to eventually open a support clinic in the south east of Kent, and to get more children of school age playing tennis.

So, on behalf of Sadie and the Sadie Bristow Foundation, we are calling on all of you in Kent; come on, don't be afraid to be great and do something wonderful for your community.

*Please visit the Sadie Bristow Foundation website to find out a lot more information and how to get involved with this excellent cause:*

<https://www.sadiebristowfoundation.org.uk>



## Focus on Junior Tennis Leaders

This item in the new Junior section of the KLT is about Tennis Leaders and young people who are involved in tennis, not just playing but helping to deliver tennis activities for others. Many are our future coaches, officials and volunteers, and the future of our game.

The Tennis Leader programme is active all over Kent. Young players aged 13 plus usually start with the introductory module of the LTA Tennis Leader course delivered by coaches in clubs or at Bromley Tennis Centre. The course at BTC normally costs £35 and the next one is on 2nd September (contact BTC on 01689 880407 for more details and to book a place). Speak to your club coach if you would like to get involved. There are three additional modules for those who want to learn more. Taking their new skills, the leaders get involved in various tennis activities and club events depending on the club.

Here are a few examples of active leader programmes from Jimmy's Tennis, The Parklangley Club, Sevenoaks and Gravesham, plus a profile of our Kent Young Person of the Year, Marcelle Lowe.

### Leaders at Jimmy's Tennis

Jim Barton has for a long time recognised this group of young people. He says; "Many come to us as strangers and leave as part of the family. Their personal skills grow, plus club events and coaching sessions are enriched by their enthusiasm and empathy, and they become role models for the younger players. Like many clubs, we are asked by parents whether their child can complete their DofE with us. We involve the parents and tailor a programme to suit. We support as many young people as we can, involving them in as many aspects of the club as possible. I also deliver the sports leaders courses within the school curriculum and many of the young leaders get involved in tennis as a result".

### What parents have said:

*"Our daughter started as a tennis leader when she was 14, and was involved in running tournaments with Jim and other tennis leaders. It has given her confidence in dealing with a range of people, has helped her with organisational abilities and in dealing with conflict on court. She has had fun being involved in the tournaments, and this has helped her develop her*

*passion for tennis further. She was selected to participate in the prestigious Youth Sports Talent Camp at Loughborough University, did work experience at Eastbourne at the practice courts during the major tournament, and took part in the She Rallies training course with Judy Murray. All of these opportunities have given her a strong personal statement for being selected to study Physiotherapy at University, and to pursue her tennis career by completing her Level 1 coaching qualification"*.

*"The Tennis Leaders programme is a fantastic initiative for young people. It has helped my daughter gain valuable experience in working with others and in coaching children of different ages and levels. In addition to boosting her confidence, her involvement in the programme has made her feel like an essential part of the team and has contributed towards her overall enjoyment of tennis in general."*

*"I think all young people would benefit hugely from the young leadership programme. This programme has transformed my son from an awkward, anxious and shy boy who was unable to make eye contact to someone that has confidence, is able to manage his time and to deal with parents and children, solving problems and making decisions"*.

*"My son loves everything to do with tennis, with one exception – playing his own matches! Being a tennis leader has given him the opportunity to be involved in the game from another point of view. It is improving his confidence and helping him to communicate with people on a range of levels. Although he doesn't realise it at the moment, these skills will help him over the*



Selina, Ethan and Tim from Frindsbury

*coming years, both within tennis and in life in general. In addition, one added bonus is that it is time spent away from his PlayStation!"*

### **Leaders at The Parklangley Club**

Chris Merrick, Head of Tennis, runs three to four LTA leader courses each year encouraging players in the various coaching sessions in badminton, squash and tennis to get involved in leadership. They then help with the coaching sessions for younger players in all three sports, and with multi-sports sessions, competitions, holiday camps and children's parties. Currently there are 32 active leaders at the club, busily involved to different degrees. Chris says that he feels everyone has gained from the experience in some way – gaining confidence, learning new skills, working with peers, earning some pocket money. Many have made a career of coaching whilst others have become referees or volunteers. When they reach 16, the best of them are taken on for more formal work at the club as bar assistants and administrators as well as more coaching. This is brilliant, particularly for their college holidays. The club is happy, the teenagers are happy and the parents are happy.

### **Leaders at Sevenoaks**

Helene Jackson at Sevenoaks has always had a wonderful crew of tennis leaders. Whilst they are developing their own tennis games in her coaching programme, she is looking for those who might enjoy being leaders and have the right attributes. As soon as they are 13 years old, she signposts them to a course at Bromley Tennis Centre and gets them actively helping with the mini red coaching sessions, scoring and running the boxes at competitions, umpiring

matchplays and helping with teams. Currently there are 14 leaders in the Sevenoaks programme.

They work through their teens and then continue in the holidays when they are at University. Some have gone on to do Level 1 and 2 coaching qualifications, and a few have completed tournament refereeing qualifications. Helene says; "Having leaders is a win-win. The leaders learn about communication, organisation and life skills generally. They become much more confident in themselves and in their own tennis, the parents are very happy, and my little kids get the best learning experiences. Some of my leaders are now full-time career coaches and some of my original leaders now have children in the current coaching programme!"

### **Leaders at Gravesham**

Angie Suleau, coach at Gravesham Tennis Club, says her leaders are integral to the club activity. Currently there are seven who are active - two of them are now Level 2 coaches, two are Level 1 coaches and three others are waiting until they old enough to do their coaching qualifications. They all help with open days, coaching, and competitions and with social events such as the annual Easter egg hunt and tennis outings to major events. Some get involved further as volunteers on the junior committee and joining the club workforce which gets together to paint the clubhouse and smarten up the facilities. Angie is certain their involvement in helping others helps them mature, gain confidence and recognise their potential. She says the club was thrilled when Marcelle was named as the winner of the Kent Young Person of the Year Award.

### **Marcelle Lowe – Kent Young Person of the Year 2018**

18-year-old Marcelle has had an exceptional year at Gravesham. She assists with coaching five days a week at the club, in local schools and community halls, with the Tennis4Kids programme and with competitions both at the club and at Kent events. She also runs holiday camps. Always keen to learn, Marcelle passed her Level 2 coaching qualification in 2018, attended a MissHits training day, and a She Rallies course. She is the only female buddy hitter at the club and loves to help other players develop their confidence. She has inspired many girls to join the tennis programme. She also supports her father as social secretary with various themed social events. Well done Marcelle.



Monty, Max, Ollie, Fred and Huxley from Sevenoaks

## *Ben wins 12U Tennis Europe Title*

Ben Gusic-Wan brought home one of the top prizes in 12U tennis by winning the annual Super Auray Open. The French event, now in its 34th year, has amongst its past winners many of today's top ATP professional players including Andy Murray and Rafael Nadal and is considered to be the premier event for players aged 12 and under in the world.

Ben played French home favourite Yoshka Sborowsky in the final, coming through a tense encounter 6-2, 2-6, 6-3. In a sport that tends to favour the stronger, taller junior, Ben is a rare phenomenon, relying on speed and guile to out-play bigger opponents. At 11 years old, he already has a full arsenal of shots, with a drive volley and drop shot that bewilder the opposition. Ben's exciting style of play is taking social media by storm, with the video of his final having been watched worldwide over 200,000 times. Ben also won the Super Auray 12s doubles title with GB teammate Samy Khediri, beating Romania's top pair 7-6, 6-4 in the final.

Already a superstar amongst his peers on-court, off court Ben remains engaging and humble and is well liked for his friendly and generous personality. He enjoys being part of Canterbury LTC 14U Premier team and took to the court as part of Kent's 14U County Cup team this May.



## Winter Season Highlights...

We are lucky enough to have three juniors already capable of competing on the pro circuit – Anton Matusevich, Emma Radacanu and Sasha Hill. The winter season got off to an amazing start with Anton winning the junior boys doubles at the US Open, an incredible achievement which also earned him Kent Junior player of the Year. Emma has successfully made the transition to the pro-circuit, winning the 15K event in Antalya, the final in the Tel Aviv 15K and semis in 25K events in Bolton and Wirral. She is now ranked just outside the top 500 in the world which is some achievement at 16! We have another three juniors who have played for GB this season in the Winter Cup – Sophia Johnson, Hugo Coquelin, and Ben Gusic-Wan. Ben also had a great individual season winning the prestigious Super Auray event in France which is contested by the best juniors in the world. Jack Pinnington-Jones continues to impress as he competes at higher level ITF junior events.

Closer to home, we have had many juniors competing in the winter national series. The format of these events is several Grade 2 events, each with qualifying and main draw, followed by an invitational winter final Grade 1 based on the results, for the top 16 at each age group. Michael Nkereuwen, Pranav Devaguptapu, Hugo Coquelin, Kristofer Johnson, Alex de Sousa, Emma Slack and Leticia Romanova all made it to the Grade 1 events. Big congratulations to them!

## What to Look Out for in the Summer Season

Summer season tennis in Great Britain is of course dominated by the grass court grand slam championships at Wimbledon and we will be hoping to watch our Kent juniors in action there, seeing if they can go further than their excellent results last year. It will also be worth keeping an eye on the qualifying events for the main Wimbledon draws (held the week before at the Bank of England Club, Roehampton) as we may well see our juniors in action there too.

However, you don't need to nearly be a pro to get a little piece of the Wimbledon action. The summer season also contains the fabulous Road to Wimbledon event for 14 and unders. This is split into two parts; an

international competition for highly ranked 14U who compete at a Grade 2 qualifying event on grass which then leads to the finals in August at Wimbledon. The second category is the club and county competition – and winners coming through this route also get to compete at Wimbledon in August. It's an amazing experience to compete on the practice courts at Wimbledon, recover with a meal in the players' lounge, and checkout the locker rooms used by Roger, Rafa, Novak ... and Andy of course! Enter this event if you possibly can!

There is also a summer series of national events for every age group including Scottish Nationals and at Bath. The summer domestic season really culminates in the Grade 1 national championships in Nottingham in August – and we could see some Kent winners there too.

Finally, the summer season sees week-long tournaments at Kent's finest clubs which provide wonderful opportunities to compete or just hang out with your mates. There are Grade 3 regional events at the Parklangley Club in May, Bromley Tennis Centre and Tunbridge Wells in July and August. And, of course, the County Championships at the end of August. Get your entries in.



Sasha Hill

## American Universities

Where does my tennis career go next? Whether you are hoping for a pro career or just want to keep playing the sport you love, American Uni could be the route for you. Pippa Lane, Kent Captain 18U girls, but wearing her hat as owner of Stars and Stripes Tennis says;

US College Tennis is more alluring than ever for international student athletes offering them a golden opportunity to continue their tennis development and, importantly, combine it with an education. Of course, depending on the individual's athletic and academic levels, it can also carry a price tag.

US universities offer a large range of entry levels, but all provide players with a structured environment to grow academically and athletically, and achieve personal excellence at a fraction of the cost of attending a UK institution.

For the women who obtain full scholarships like Kent juniors Nell Miller, Natasha Munday or Hannah Watton, not only does it open the door to a free education but to intercollegiate sport, and as in Nell's case, wild-cards into pro events.

For the men, scholarships are typically a combination of athletic and academic funding as Alex Jochim proved this year. It allows individuals four years to physically and emotionally mature surrounded by professional support staff made up of coaches, trainers, nutritionists, psychologists and team-mates.

US College sport is a proven nurturing ground for athletes. Where else can you play an individual sport yet be part of a team? College sport is an amateur arena with professional standards. It's an opportunity to submerge yourself in the competitive American culture, to learn life skills, to travel, to create life-long friendships with others from across the globe, to understand that 'the team' is bigger than any individual, to take on a challenge and face your fears, to know failing is the road to success, and to understand how tennis and education together combine to create future careers. What's not to love!

**Alex Jochim** is settling in to his first year at university, loving life on the other side of the pond...

I first started thinking about going to university in the States when I was about 16. My coach went through US college and after talking to him, I was sold on the idea.



Pippa Lane

I compared it to UK uni and, for me, going to the US made more sense because there are more opportunities to play sport at a high level. Whilst this is possible in the UK, for tennis at least, there are not many options. It is more competitive in the US due to the quantity of teams and structure of the system. You also get the chance to experience a new country and with that a change of scenery. America is very different to the UK, so getting outside what you're comfortable with is a really good experience.

I chose my uni, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), for a few reasons. Coaches are a



big factor and it's definitely very important that you get along with them – I like my coaches a lot and did so right from our initial Skype contact. The schedule was another factor. We play a lot of big teams from the biggest conferences such as Big 10, SEC and ACC so we get to experience the highest level there is. One team we played this year was ranked 13 nationally at the time. Finally, scholarship is probably the most important factor as it essentially makes or breaks whether you can go or not. I was able to get the scholarship I needed at IUPUI, so it made it a lot easier to choose.

Schedules will vary for each uni and semester as the playing season is in the spring. We train 6 days a week, with 3 of them in the gym as well as on-court, yoga on one day with an optional second day. I also have a couple of individual lessons a week. I played 3 of the 4 tournaments our team entered in the fall, but in the spring, there's at least one match every week. Regular season conference starts at the end of March. How we do in that decides if we qualify for the conference tournament in early April, and then if we win, we go to NCAA Championships in May. Holidays are 3 weeks over Christmas and then about 3 ½ months over the summer starting in early May.

My advice is to start looking early. This will open up your options a lot as you'll be able to get access to all the coaches before they have made their signings. Next, compete in a lot in Grade 2s and Men's events. Aim to get over a 12 Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) if you want to go to a Div 1 college but don't check it religiously as it'll just stress you out. Also, get familiar with conference set ups in the US (which conferences are good, what teams are good, do they play good teams, how do they do in their conference, is their conference strong etc...). Finally, research the uni well and visit if you can, so you can have a really good idea of the feel of the place. You are going to spend 4 years of your life there after all.

Alex is doing a double major in Psychology and Exercise Science and is looking to do something in sports psychology in the future.

**Nell Miller** had a very successful junior tennis career, playing for GB. She has gone to the US to continue her tennis development and is really enjoying the team aspect of university tennis

I am currently at Texas Tech University studying sports management. I first started to think about an American

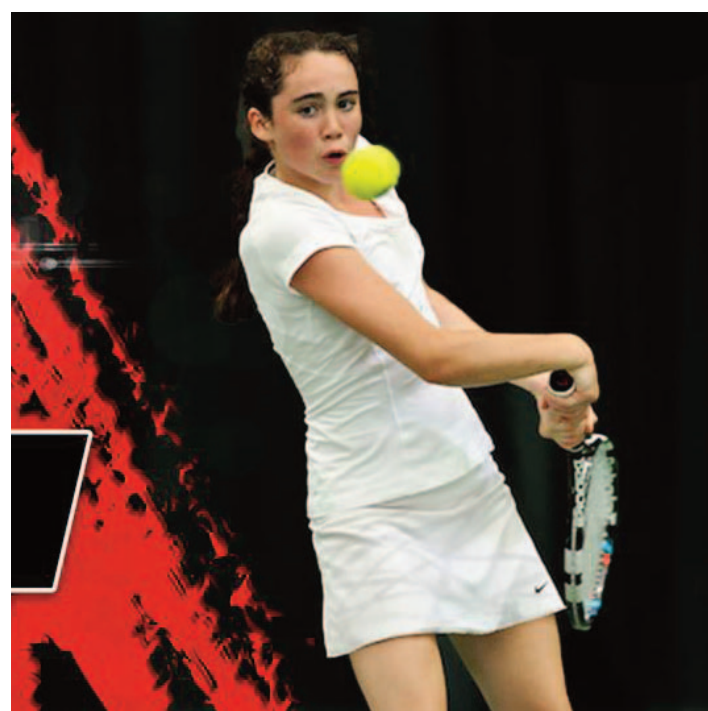
university after my first year in sixth form, as many of the players on the pro Tour now have come through the college experience. I wanted to go to college for a new experience, to progress my tennis and to work together with a team to achieve goals.

I chose this university because of the great tennis programme and the interaction with the coaches. Also when coming onto the campus it felt like home from home because of the team dynamics. The team really encourage each other to achieve and work hard, which I found very important.

Our week consists of tennis training and gym work, which fit around our studies. This allows us to have time for school and to enjoy the time we have at the university. Once we have finished with our training we are able to enjoy our free time - sometimes we go to the movies, or to the pool with each other. The training week is based around getting us ready for the match at the end of the week. During the spring season there are a vast amount of matches, this is due to competing for the Big 12 title.

I love growing my understanding of the game of tennis, which the programme has helped me to do, as well as growing as an individual, which my teammates and coaches have helped me to do.

My advice would be to look for the school and team which you believe will become your family, as once you are part of the team they do become your second family.



## *The Kent County Junior Tennis Finals at Frindsbury LTC*

Five months of knockout rounds between 254 teams from clubs around the county culminated in twelve finals, from 10U to 18U, in Boys and Girls events. The finals featured a Davis Cup format with two singles matches, and one doubles, that saw players going onto court with their captains in support, offering advice throughout the matches. Parents watched, in some cases biting their finger nails, from the sidelines.

The day's proceedings started at 10am with good weather. There was some high quality, competitive tennis on display from the outset and the players faces showed just how much it meant to each of them. Winners came off court jumping with joy, hugging their friends and families, the runners-up sitting quietly in the shadows, but all acknowledging how well the matches were played.

Jim Barton organised and refereed the event on the day. He was helped by some of his tennis leaders, Ethan, Zara and Selina, and supported by Kent LTA President, Vanessa Webb, who presented the medals and pennants.



14U Boys Runners Up, Meopham & Winners, Canterbury



14U Girls Runners Up, Wye & Winners, Sevenoaks

## Junior Tennis Finals Results

10U Boys: Blackheath (Runner up Avenue)  
 10U Girls: Chipstead (R/u David Lloyd Kings Hill)  
 12U Boys: Avenue (Runner Up Canterbury)  
 12U Girls: Deal ITC 'A' (Runner Up Oakwood)  
 14U Boys: Canterbury 'A' (Runner Up Meopham)  
 14U Girls: Sevenoaks 'A' (Runner Up Wye)  
 16U Boys: Sevenoaks 'B' (Runner Up Canterbury 'A')  
 16U Girls: Sevenoaks 'A' (Runner Up Otford)  
 18U Boys: Meopham (Runner Up Avenue)  
 18U Girls: Sevenoaks (Runner Up Meopham)



10U Boys Winners, Blackheath & Runners Up, Avenue.



16U Boys Runners Up, Canterbury & Winners, Sevenoaks



12U Girls Winners, Deal ITC

## *Matt Weaver and Kean DeVilliers, in the ball kids team for the ATP Finals at the O2.*

Matt tells us how he got there and what it was like.

First of all, we went to the Olympic park for a tough trial - testing out strength, agility, coordination and stamina - to find out if we had what it takes to be on court with the top 8 men's singles and doubles players in the world. About 500 kids took part in the trial but just 30 made it to the O2 in November. As most of us had no experience of being a Ball Kid we then attended a week's training in Southampton to learn the skills required to be a Ball Kid and connect with the rest of the team, who came from all over the UK. During this week I realised how tough being a Ball Kid was going to

be, having to always stay low and roll and run and catch, all whilst focusing on who is serving, and on where the balls need to be.

We got to the O2 the day before the event started to get our kit and we had one practice run on the court. We also got to meet four extra members of our group, two from Rio de Janeiro and two from Shanghai. On the first day of the ATP finals we had an early training session to remind ourselves of the skills we needed on court, and then we had a nervous wait for the first match of the finals. The first day of the tournament was so memorable – my first experience of being in front of 18,000 people with millions watching on TV.

This was the best experience of my life! I would recommend it to anyone who is interested. The friends you make stay with you forever which makes this unforgettable – I never wanted it to end!



## What's in the Bag?

Ever wondered what tennis players carry on to court in those enormous bags? We persuaded current Kent County 16U Champion, Tommy Harrison, to let us take a peek inside...

1. More than one tennis racket – number depending on how often you break strings
2. Tennis shoes – many players wear softer shoes on to court and then change
3. Practice balls – great to use spare tournament balls from the ref to warm up with but they're not always available so be prepared
4. Insulated metal water bottle - great for keeping your water cool in the summer months
5. Home-made energy drink – half and half fruit juice and water, with a teeny bit of salt to help absorption of fluids
6. Food – variety of energy bars, dried fruit and nuts
7. Banana
8. Towel – souvenir of Road to Wimbledon 2018
9. Match notebook – trade secrets inside!
10. Mini foam roller, hockey ball and tennis ball for pre and post match rolling
11. Various bands for warm-up particularly for shoulder exercises and injury prevention
12. Heart rate monitor
13. General medical kit – plasters, pain killers, anti-inflammatories, physio tape, electrolyte tablets etc
14. Nutri-bullet with chocolate powder – just add milk to make a recovery protein shake after the match
15. Change of clothes to change into after a shower – either before next match or before getting in the car to go home. Recovery is much better in clean kit
16. Spare string and over grips for rackets



## The Missing Ingredient

Kent County Seniors Captain, Hazel Lindfield, is serious about her tennis, competing internationally. She also takes her nutrition very seriously and she's become a bit of an expert on energy bars for giving you that on-court boost just when you need it. She kindly agreed to share one of her favourites with us...

### Fudgy Brownie Bars

115g walnuts (probably the most nutritious nuts - but you can use other varieties)

235g pitted dates

110g almond butter

50g unsweetened cocoa powder

38g crushed pecans (optional)

Put the walnuts and dates in the food processor and blend until finely ground. Next, add the almond butter and process again. Finally add the cocoa powder and mix well, ideally using the pulse setting to mix well.

Smooth the mixture into a 20cm square baking tray lined with parchment, pressing in well with your fingers or the back of a spoon. Sprinkle the pecans over the top, cover and pop in the fridge for an hour. Take out of the fridge, cut into squares, and try not to eat all at once!!

This recipe is packed full of nuts because of the high energy they provide and because they are nutritionally rich. Unfortunately, that means **they are NOT suitable for anyone with a nut allergy**. Does anyone have a great nut-free energy bar recipe, tried and tested, which you would like to share?



# 34 Schools

## *Kent Annual Secondary Schools Boys and Girls Doubles Championships.*

On Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd May 2019, 234 girls and boys from secondary schools across the county participated in the Annual Secondary School Doubles Championships hosted at the Bromley Tennis Centre. The event was run by Siobhan Butler, supported by Vanessa Webb.

The many tennis matches played over the two days saw the players having fun representing their schools and, with the teachers support, the events were once again a huge success.

Congratulations to everyone who took part and we look forward to seeing more teams enter in 2020.

### **Top 4 Girls Teams:**

Year 7 and 8

- 1 – Sevenoaks A
- 2 – Sevenoaks B
- 3 – Sevenoaks C
- 4 – Bromley High D

### **Top 4 Boys Teams:**

Year 7 and 8

- 1 – Sevenoaks A
- 2 – Judd
- 3 – Sir Roger Manwood's A
- 4 – Norton Knatchbull A

Year 9 and 10

- 1 – Benenden A
- 2 – Bromley High A
- 3 – Walthamstow Hall A

Year 9 and 10

- 1 – Sevenoaks A
- 2 – Sir Roger Manwood's A
- 3 – Langley Park



Year 9 & 10 Winners, Benenden A



Year 9 & 10 Runners Up, Bromley High A



Year 7 & 8 Winners, Sevenoaks



Year 7 & 8 Winners, Sevenoaks



Year 9 & 10 Group 1 Winners, Sevenoaks



Year 9 & 10 Runners Up, Sir Roger Manwood's A

## Kent TENNISYS Inter Club Leagues Winter 2018-19 RESULTS

<b><u>Men's</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4 Division 5 Division 6 Division 7 Division 8 Division 9 Division 10	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Canterbury LTC 1 Shooters Hill LTC 1 Frindsbury LTC 1 Bexley LTC 2 Avenue Tennis 1 Bearsted & Thurnham 1 Shooters Hill LTC 2 Avenue Tennis 2 David Lloyd Dartford 2 Bromley LTC 3
<b><u>Ladies</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4 Division 5 Division 6 Division 7 Division 8	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Freedom Leisure 1 Canterbury LTC 2 Beckenham LTC 1 Bethersden TC Trottiscliffe LTC 1 Margate LTC 1 Avenue Tennis South Hill Woods 1
<b><u>Mixed</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4 Division 5 Division 6 Division 7 Division 8	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Sundridge Park Tunbridge Wells LTC 2 David Lloyd Kings Hill 1 Gravesham LTC 1 Bearsted & Thurnham LTC 1 Avenue Tennis Trottiscliffe LTC 1 Bromley Wendover 2
<b><u>Men's Vets</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Bromley Wendover 1 Meopham LTC Sevenoaks LTC 2 Parklangley 2
<b><u>Ladies Vets</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Bromley LTC 1 Canterbury LTC 2 Hayes LTC
<b><u>Men's Over 60's Midweek</u></b> Division 1 Division 2 Division 3 Division 4	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Canterbury LTC 1 Canterbury LTC 2 Hartley CC Tunbridge Wells LTC
<b><u>Ladies Over 60's Midweek</u></b> Division 1	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Canterbury LTC
<b><u>Men's Over 70's Midweek</u></b> Division 1	<b><u>Winners</u></b> Canterbury LTC 1

## Kent Seniors Title Success

Kent players achieved great success in the English Open Seniors Indoor Championships at Welwyn Garden City between the 15th and 21st April 2019 with a haul of titles.

Bob Milner fought his way through a tough field to win the Men's Over 80s title. Peter Pharo had a fantastic run, beating the no 1 seed and GB player in the quarter-finals and managing to overcome a tricky opponent in the final to win the Men's Over 70s in 3 sets. Jasper Cooper, the GB no 1, fulfilled his top seeded position by winning the Over 65 Singles. In the final, he met the GB no 3 and, after losing a close first set, raised his level to run out the winner 6-7, 6-3, 6-2.

Hazel Lindfield took the Ladies' Over 60s title. Her first

match was against a player that she lost to for the first time ever at Tipton, so a 6-1, 7-6 win was sweet. One more win in the group and through to the final which was a hard fought 6-2 6-2 victory.

Rebecca Cooper won her first title in the Ladies' Over 35s. She played the top seed in the final and after taking a tight first set 7-6, ran away to win the second 6-3 to take the trophy. The victory gained her a GB ranking of number 10.

There was a doubles title for Peter Ford in the Men's Over 60s.

There was also title success at the British Open Seniors Indoor Championships at Tipton in January. Jasper Cooper won the Men's Over 65s title and Bob Milner won the Men's Over 80s title.



Bob Milner, Hazel Lindfield, Rebecca Cooper & Jasper Cooper



*Cynthia Smith*

Cynthia Smith has been awarded an LTA Meritorious Service Award for her contribution over many years. Cynthia retired in 2018 as Kent Seniors Tennis Organiser and Senior Ladies' Teams Organiser. She had previously been involved in the development and organisation of Kent tennis for 40 years. Her Award is to be presented at the Nature Valley International Tournament at Eastbourne in June and we'll have the full story in the next edition.

## Kent Seniors Singles and Doubles Competition

Not only has Keith Clark organized the Kent Seniors Singles and Doubles Competition for the past three years, he has also won more Kent Seniors titles than anyone else, holding 20 titles (7 Singles and 13 Doubles). He reports on the 2019 Finals on 17th March:

In the 45s Singles, defending champion, Jason Baker from Tunbridge Wells, lost 2-6, 0-6 to last year's finalist, Peter Gillespie from Gravesham. Peter, showing patience and determination, starved Jason of his huge forehand by concentrating on his backhand. Look forward to episode three next March between these evenly matched guys.

The 45s Doubles final saw Nigel Cannon from Canterbury and Adrian Moll from Maidstone against Neil Scotland and Dave Thresher, a Sevenoaks combination, with Cannon and Moll taking the spoils 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 in match that took two and a half hours to complete. As you can imagine, it was close, entertaining, with some brilliant rallies.

John Watton has a wonderful record of Kent Singles Seniors titles. Winner of the 45 Singles six years running, he is now the grand master of the 55 Singles for the fourth year. Facing him in this year's Final was Dave McSorley from Bromley LTC. John took the first set 6-1, only for Dave to fight back in the second and at one stage it looked like going to a third set. However, experience and court craft took over and John got home 6-4. We had no 55 Doubles this year, simply because of insufficient entries.

The 60 Singles featured Nigel Jordan from Old Wilsonians making his debut in this age group. He was up against Peter Ford in a match that was closely contested in the opening set which Peter won 7-5. With the set under his belt, Peter eased home 6-2 to take the title.

The 60 Doubles was a bit one sided with Nigel Jordan back again, in the company of Martin Dene's Ian Milligan, beating Brian Judd and Bob Thompson from Iden Green 6-0, 6-2.

The 65 Singles saw Peter Pharo of Parklangley successfully defend his title, accounting for fellow club mate Dave Willan 6-1, 6-3 in a match that was closer than the score suggests.

The 65 Doubles was played on a round robin basis and won by Jasper Cooper and his Canterbury partner Chris Morgan, beating Rob Andrew from the Knoll, Orpington

and Robin Garratt of Oakwood 7-5, 5-7, 3-1, Robin retiring due to injury.

I should have been on court defending my 70s Singles title, but my opponent Jonathan Potter, in his first year in this age group, had to withdraw due to injury.

The 70 Doubles was a repeat of last year's Final with the holders Vic Chance from Hayes and Gordon Hayward of Parklangley playing myself and old friend and regular partner Gary Sims. We did have our chances and all credit to the holders who came from 3-6 down to clinch the first tie break set 9-7. With Hayward's serve and volley game on song they forged ahead to a meritorious 6-4 second set and well-deserved victory.

The super veterans, 75s Doubles, attracted a decent entry and saw the experienced Vic Chance and Colin Dancey from Parklangley taking on the scratch pairing of John Bland from Sundridge Park and Denis Costelloe of Catford Wanderers, playing only their second game together. Not surprisingly Vic and Colin triumphed 6-2, 6-1.

The trophies were presented by John Watton, Deputy President of Kent Tennis.

My thanks to Siobhan Butler in the Kent Tennis office for her support, and to my daughter, Sharon, who helps with court scheduling on Finals Day.

Overall, I was very pleased with the tournament, but I wonder if all Kent clubs advertise the event on their websites and noticeboards. One benefit of the competition is to unearth new talent for Kent Seniors teams, so please do ensure you let people know about the event next year. It would be great to see some entries from other clubs.

If you require any further information, please contact me on [sportacus1945@gmail.com](mailto:sportacus1945@gmail.com)



Keith Clark and his daughter, Sharon

*Kent Tennis would love to run a Ladies competition, so if there are any female Seniors players who would like to play in a Singles and Doubles tournament over the winter, please get in touch with Harri Izzard at [harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk](mailto:harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk).*

# KENT TENNIS OPEN DAY

Saturday 21st September 2019

1pm - 5pm



Open to members, non-members & Kent tennis members

Hosted by Kent & South East Club of the Year OAKWOOD TENNIS CLUB

1pm - 3.30pm

Family Cup - Adult playing with a 10 and under child on a mini red court



3.30pm - 4.30pm  
Kent Tennis Exhibition Match



4.30pm - 5pm  
Kent LTA Presentation



Booking opens 1st July 2019

To book visit [oakwoodtennisclub.com](http://oakwoodtennisclub.com)



Other activities - cardio tennis, pop tennis, v.i. tennis & fastest serve competition



TOMBOLA, GAMES  
& PRIZES!



## *Oakwood Tennis Club*

Oakwood Tennis Club in Crayford won Club of the Year for Kent, South East Regional Club of the Year and is now down to the last three for National Club of the year. What an amazing year for the club!

Club Chairman, Gavin Nelson, and the committee decided to restructure the club to become a charitable, incorporated organisation which allowed them to seek grants for the installation of three new courts with floodlights and the resurfacing of the three existing courts. This doubled the capacity of the club facilities and the new courts were officially opened in May 2018. The club is proud to be at the heart of the community and the new courts have enabled Head Coach Neil Biddle, and his assistant Richard, to expand the coaching programme to offer more opportunities to both members and non-members. The club now runs Rusty Rackets, red, orange and green junior coaching, group sessions for teenagers, squad coaching for adults, over 70's group and cardio tennis. Membership over the last year has increased by 56% for juniors and 103% in adults, with the participation in the coaching programme increasing from 167 to 316. The coaching programme reaches out into 16 local primary schools and 4 secondary schools and participants are encouraged to visit the club.

Oakwood is run by a dedicated group of volunteers and the club has been bold in focusing on improving governance and facilities which has led to increased participation across the club.

The club will host a Kent Tennis Day on Saturday 21st September from 1-5pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon of tennis. The Kent Family Cup will be held during the afternoon so look out for the entry information on the Kent Tennis website.

Kent Tennis wishes Oakwood, and all the other Kent finalists, the best of luck in the National Finals.



## *Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club* Easter Grade 3 Tournament 2019

One of the drawbacks of organising tennis tournaments at Easter is that you are never sure what the weather is going to do. In 2017 there was a heat wave, last year torrential rain, and this Easter it was sleet showers and sub- zero temperatures. Fortunately, none of this affected play too much although there was a delay on the second day. With 220 competitors taking part, scheduling had to be on the ball and by Finals Day on Saturday all matches were up to date.

Four matches were on court to start the Finals: 14U and 12U Girls, and 14U and 18U Boys Singles. Unfortunately, both boys matches ended in retirements. Sam Nicholson was well ahead of Chett Cassidy in the 18U when Chett retired with an arm injury. The match score was 6-1, 4-0 to Sam, who perhaps didn't mind a short match as he was playing in three finals.

In the Boys 14U Tim Viding had to give way to Rory Marles, again through injury, the score of 6-2 3-1 in Rory's favour. The girls had a better time of it with Sky Bentum-Siripi winning in straight sets over Talitha Mitchell in the Girls 14U. Chloe Cleaver had more of a struggle but went on to beat Lola Lavendera in three sets in the Girls 12U.

Two of the closest and most exciting matches of the day were the Men's and Ladies Singles. Cassandra Dix had

quite a battle on her hands when she met Annali Olivelle. The score line of 7-5 7-6 in favour of Cassandra gives an indication of the quality of the match. In the Men's singles, the double champion of our Summer 2018 tournament, Alex de Sousa, came up against the Easter Boys 18U champion, Sam Nicholson, and what a match it was. Both lads were on top form with huge ground strokes and amazing accuracy. Alex played superbly in the first set and didn't seem in any danger, winning it 7-5. In the second set the level of play didn't diminish at all and Sam raised his game to the extent that the set could have gone either way. In the end, Alex hung on taking the set again 7-5, completing what was probably the best match of the day.

Sam was on court again in the Men's Doubles and partnering Scott Robinson lost to Noah Burton and Elliott Stevens 6-3 6-3.

Over thirty matches were played during the day and a total of sixty-six prizes were given out and presented by Simon Gent, representative of our sponsor, Eastbourne College. Our grateful thanks to Simon and the College for their continued support of our Grade 3 events.

It doesn't seem that far off until we organise our next tournaments in August, the second Grade 3 event and our Seniors tournament. Before then, however, are the Club Championships which have just got underway, so another busy year of competition at TWLTC.

*Brian Goldsmith*



Boys 16U Winner, Ethan Grant



Girls 14U Doubles Winners, Skye Bentum-Siripi & Iris Nasir

## Jason's Totally Tennis

Jason Goatley is celebrating 25 years in business with Jason's Totally Tennis

At the age of 22, Jason left his job at the London Stock Exchange to return to what he loved – tennis! He had played for Kent as a junior and realised it was not just great hobby but could also become his career too. He is now a Level 4 LTA qualified coach.



He set up Jason's Totally Tennis (JTT) in 1994 and is now Head Coach at South Hill Woods Tennis Club (SHW) and Bromley LTC (BLTC).

South Hill Woods has undergone a huge programme of improvement, with tarmac courts replaced by a new artificial grass surface which allows members to play in



all weathers as they are less affected by rain and frost. The work was fully funded by JTT and made possible by the early payment of membership fees by club members and kind donations. It is always hard work having to raise the amount of money needed for large projects, but as Jason said: "We got there in the end." The JTT coaching programme has eight fantastic coaches, buddy hitters and junior assistants providing weekly coaching for more than 500 junior and adult players at SHW & BLTC. JTT has year-round links with local secondary schools, primary schools and nursery schools.



JTT runs teams at both clubs, tournaments for adults and children, cardio tennis, tots classes, parent and child events and themed clinics, all aimed at encouraging more people to enjoy tennis.

Andrew Watson, who has been with the club for 25 years, said: "Jason's enthusiasm for tennis is clear to see and he has made South Hill Woods a welcoming and friendly club which really does encourage everyone to get out and play."

Jason added: "I would like to thank Nancy in our office, all coaching and club staff and my family for all their help over the years and thanks to all players and parents that have supported JTT".

## Bromley Tennis Centre

BTC maintains its reputation as one of the top Community Indoor Tennis Centres (CITCs) in the country. It is recognised by the LTA as a Regional Player Development Centre (RPDC), Local Player Development Centre (LPDC), Coach Education Centre and Disability Tennis Hub.

Since being selected as an RPDC and LPDC to support the LTA player pathway, the centre has confirmed that it has 10 regional players aged between 10 and 14 years and 25 county training players aged between 8 and 10 years. Top players who train at BTC, Emma Raducanu and Anton Matusevich, continue to make both BTC and Kent proud with their achievements, as does Ben Gusic-Wan who won the 12U Championships at Auray in France earlier this year, and Sasha Hill who recently gained a place at Florida State University, starting her US tennis journey in autumn 2019.

The centre is fully committed to the development and production of the next batch of top players and has added some new members to the coaching team. This includes Matt Smith, who was appointed late last year to make some waves in 2019 as BTC's new Head of

Performance. Matt is an ex professional player who achieved an ATP ranking at just 15 years old, and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience. The additions of Neil Pauffley, Roko Karanusic and Chris Green have strengthened the development and performance aspects of the coaching team at BTC. Neil is a professional player who still competes on the pro circuit and is the current British Tour Masters champion after winning the event in December 2018. Roko is a world ranked ex-professional player and Davis Cup winner.

Bromley Tennis Centre continues to offer everything from beginner events to Grade 3 and Grade 4 tournaments. Over the last six months, the centre has run its ever-popular Grade 3 Autumn Tournament, Christmas Grade 4 Mini Tennis tournament, Grade 3 February half term tournament and Easter Grade 4 event. It hosted the 18U Boys County Cup where the Kent team was runner up, plus the 2019 Quorn Family Tennis Cup at the end of April.

BTC offers a range of courses from Level 1 Coach Assistant to Level 4 Senior Club Coach qualifications and hosts a variety of different coach development courses, including Cardio Tennis, Tech quick fixes, Disability Awareness, Mental Health, teaching children with autism and Mini Tennis.



## Hythe Lawn Tennis Club

### Hythe upgrade their lighting.

For the last 3 years Hythe Lawn Tennis Club has been closely following the development of LED lighting for tennis courts. More clubs are now making the changeover, not only as LED lighting is far more environmentally friendly, but there is a considerable cost saving on the electricity used and the absence of maintenance costs.

At Hythe metal halide lamps had been installed on four courts in 2010 and on the other four courts in 2013. The lamps were starting to blow on the lights, which involved considerable rectification cost. We managed to source lamps at a saving but, once we had hired a cherry picker to change the lamp, the cost was approximately £400 each time. Of course, the lamps don't all go at once; sometimes we would just get one replaced and then another would go and this situation was only going to get worse.



Early in 2018 the decision was taken to prepare a feasibility study to ascertain exactly what the savings would be if we installed LED lamps.

In February 2018 we were spending £3,600 per year with EDF, however, after investigation we discovered the equivalent cost with EoN would be £2,400 per year, so this figure was used as the benchmark. We contacted Luminance Pro who had installed all our floodlighting who said the cost of the same number of hours using LED lighting would be £860 per year – If we could get the money together it would simply be a no brainer!

The quote for the conversion came in at £41,600 plus VAT for all 8 courts. In an email from the LTA there had been mention of a European Union Fund called LoCase which is managed by Thurrock Council and, as the main objective of the fund is energy efficiency, we felt we had a good chance of receiving a grant. It took several months of completing business plans, further feasibility studies and detailed calculations of power saving (helped considerably by Luminance Pro), but we were ultimately awarded £5,000 towards the cost. We also applied for assistance from Kent County Council, but after 3 months they decreed that the saving wasn't sufficiently high for us to meet their criteria. I'm not sure how much more we could possibly have saved but that was their decision! Aside from the £5,000 grant, the remainder of the installation was paid for from club funds.

Our new LED lighting was installed in June 2018 over a 3 day period. With the savings, we can retain the cost of our floodlighting for members at £4 per hour. Most members like the new lighting; although it is a different light and has taken a little getting used to but the instant switch on and off are much appreciated. The light spillage has been considerably reduced, which has pleased Hythe Town Council as we are in a National Heritage Site.

If any other club is thinking of making the changeover, they are of course always welcome to come and play under our floodlights at any time.

*Hilary Casey*  
*Project Manager/Club Secretary*

# 44 Clubs

## *Royal Opening for Marden Sports Club*

The newly formed Marden Sports Club celebrated completion of all the sporting facilities and a two storey clubhouse with an opening of the club by HRH Countess of Wessex on Saturday 18th May. After being presented with a bouquet by eight year old Ella Gates, The Countess joined in with netball, cricket and tennis which delighted the children and their families at the junior tennis coaching session during her tour of the new facilities, and chatted to members.

The Countess was then invited to unveil a plaque to mark the club's new beginning and she also planted a tree in memory of her visit.

Vanessa Webb, President of the Kent Lawn Tennis Association, was also present for the opening.

For many years Marden has been a small village club with two unlit courts sitting on the same site as the cricket and single hockey pitch in the centre of the village. In 2017 the land owners gained planning permission for housing on the original site, and a condition of that planning was to provide the sporting facilities at an alternative venue, so the club is now located a quarter of a mile from the village centre. The three sections (Marden Tennis Club, Marden Russets Hockey and Cricket) are now combined as Marden Sports Club, and have been joined by a Netball section and fledgling pétanque. The new facilities have enabled an increased footprint with two hockey pitches and four macadam tennis courts - two floodlit. This will enable the tennis section to continue to grow. In the

last three years the club coaching has moved from volunteer sessions delivered by club members for a number of weeks over the summer (much appreciated) to all year round coaching by the excellent Evolution Tennis team run by Dave and Sarah Von Ribbeck, who have grown the junior section enormously and are running local tournaments with juniors from other local clubs as well as entering successful teams in the junior categories of the Kent league.



The opening day festivities continued throughout the day with a first XI cricket match and hockey coaching squads followed by matches and an adult American Tennis Tournament. The opening was very well



attended by members of all club sections and the general public, which will all help to ensure the success of Marden Sports Club for many years to come.



2019



# KEEP CALM and VOLUNTEER

*Would you like to volunteer  
at this year's County Championships?  
Please contact [graham@silvester.co.uk](mailto:graham@silvester.co.uk)*

## KENT COUNTY 25th August to 1st September CHAMPIONSHIPS

## Maidstone LTC celebrates 35 Years

Based in Allington, Maidstone Lawn Tennis Club is a thriving and friendly tennis club which celebrated its 35th anniversary in April. To mark the occasion there was a free event, open to members and non-members which proved to be a great family day. Despite the inclement weather the club had a brilliant turn out of about 25 juniors and 35 adults taking part, with 10 new members signing up on the day. The Deputy President of Kent LTA, John Watton, came along to show his support. He said: "The transformation of the club in the last few years is remarkable. With excellent club volunteers working well with HOTSHOTZ providing quality coaching, it is no surprise that the membership has trebled and a friendly and positive atmosphere has evolved and is now present during all club and coaching sessions."



Activities at the event included a family fun cardio tennis session, where the juniors certainly showed the



adults that they could run rings around them! There were adult and junior coaching sessions, as well as the opportunity for people to test their tennis skills. Family members were competing to see who could serve the fastest and the ball machine was a hit with all ages. The coaches' skills were put to the test when they played against some of the participants, but with only a frying pan instead of a racket! The event was rounded off with a well earned BBQ.



To find out more about the club, which has four newly refurbished floodlit courts and aims to provide a safe and nurturing environment to inspire all members, whatever their age or ability, to reach their full potential, please visit the website



## *The Kent Officials Network*

Just as there is a coach network, there is also a Kent Officials Network.

It is for umpires, referees and competition organisers based in Kent. They meet 2-3 times per year for updates from Chris Mann, and others from the LTA competitions team, to share issues and ideas. There will be more about this in the KLT Autumn edition.

Meanwhile we say congratulations to Charlie Falconer who was the 'Kent Official of the Year 2018', awarded at the annual dinner in March 2019.

*To join the Officials Network send an email to:  
[officials@kenttennis.org](mailto:officials@kenttennis.org)*



Chris Mann, Officials Network Organiser



Charlie Falconer, Official of the Year



Jason Baker, Officials Network Organiser



ABTO Officials at the Kent County Championships

## Focus on Coaches

Introducing our new KLT section about coaches and for coaches. In this edition we focus on the new Kent Coaches Network, Coach Education and profile two coaches with unusual stories. If you like our coach focus please tell us what you would like to see in future editions.

### The Kent Coaches Network...

This is an initiative which aims to bring coaches together to share knowledge and ideas. It is beneficial for coaches of all levels, from those who work alone in smaller clubs, to those in bigger teams who will enjoy meeting different coaches from those that they see every day. The network is overcoming any thoughts of coaches and clubs competing with each other by emphasising that they can learn from each other and from the amazing experts we have in Kent, in various coaching fields, who are willing to contribute to these coach gatherings.

Neil Biddle from Oakwood was the coach who got the ball rolling and brought together Sue Bamford, Luke House, Sandi Procter and Mark Hayden. Between them, they led the inaugural meeting in 2018 attended by 24 coaches who pitched in with their ideas for how the network should work. Neil set up a facebook page which now has over 100 coaches and, with the help of Janice White in the Kent office, a membership scheme which is easy to join and costs only £10 per year.

Luke has set up four area networks – North (led By Luke), South (led By Zane Cheeseman), East (led by Tom Carlton and Nick Wibberley) and West (led by Matt Borthwick). The East network had a particularly successful meeting in December 2018 with 20+ coaches, and some football and social activities as well as tennis. The North held a meeting in March, specifically for head coaches, and discussed coaching programme retention, cover coaching, and the team challenge. There is more activity in planning, including an all Kent conference in July.

The Kent Coaches Network is for coaches of all levels in Kent. If you are a coach we recommend this as a 'must do' for you, and if you are a parent or player please encourage your coach to join.

Email: [coaches@kenttennis.org](mailto:coaches@kenttennis.org)

### The Bromley Coach Education Centre...

Working closely with the Kent Coaches Network is the Bromley Tennis Centre's coach education programme, which is accredited by the LTA to deliver coach qualification and development courses for Kent and the south east. Since 2010, when the LTA outsourced its coach education programme, Bromley has delivered 184 Level 1,2,3 and 4 qualification courses, 446 short courses including first aid, and 418 play tests. Sue Bamford who manages the programme, has 1200 coaches signed up to receive regular updates on courses.

Bromley is one of only 13 programmes of this kind in the country and is regarded as one of the most innovative and customer focused. They were the first to run female only courses and created a taster session for women and girls who were not sure about signing up for the full Level 1. They were also the first to run courses to help coaches understand coaching people of all ages with mental health issues and autism. Sue says her ethos is to work closely with coaches, to create a good relationship and to understand their development needs. She offers mentoring for coaches going through their qualifications and to create a real informative learning environment.

Sue recently organised a fantastic course called 'Practical Ideas in Schools', run by Dan Bloxham on court and led off court by Michelle Gray, the LTA Schools and Further Education Manager. It was organised in response to a request by the Sadie Bristow Foundation coaches, and others, and was attended and enjoyed by 24 coaches.

There are lots more courses in the pipeline with great new topics such as well-being for coaches, nutrition and high-level performance tennis. The last of those will be led by Matt Smith and aims to include contributions from well-known speakers on subjects such as coaching WTA players.

*For more information contact Sue at:  
[sue.bamford@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk](mailto:sue.bamford@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk)*

### Dennis and Chloe – their coach journeys

These are two coaches with two completely different journeys into tennis coaching.



**For Dennis Saunders** it was a ‘never too late to start’ story. He had been a black cab driver for thirty years when he retrained, worked through his coaching qualifications and now coaches full time with the Parklangley Club. He had always loved tennis, was junior champion at West Norwood LTC and organised tournaments for his school friends. Many years later he signed up his three sons for coaching under Parklangley’s ‘Tennis for free’ scheme and also coached them a bit himself too. One day he found himself on the next court to Paul Dent, a well-known Kent coach, tutor, and writer of coach resources. He watched him with interest, stole some of his ideas and found an appetite for learning more. He duly registered for a Level 1 coaching course with Sue Bamford who encouraged him to go further. Two things then happened - his brother recovered from a serious illness, and the black cab business was becoming more difficult because of Uber. He took the view that life is too short and wanted to make the most of a new career in tennis coaching. He said it has changed his life. In 2016 he weighed 18 stone and has lost four stone to date. He says “I look forward to work every day, every day is different and every day is rewarding”

**Chloe Ayling** started playing tennis at school where her parents were teachers and her mum was a tennis coach. She enjoyed success at junior county level in

Norfolk and later in Warwickshire. She joined the Police Force in 2005 and was quickly promoted to Detective Sergeant before she married and had two children. When she found it difficult to juggle work with family, she followed her mother’s advice and turned to tennis coaching to get a better work life balance. She duly took her coaching qualifications and, in 2016, started up the Kings Hill Community Tennis Club. Twenty-five children joined the initial weekend coaching sessions. After two weeks she had a long waiting list so she enlisted the help of another coach and a teenage tennis leader. With the help of LTA funding, she had the court lines repainted, including some red and orange court lines, and after the first year there were 150 children in coaching plus four adult groups. Now there are more than 300 children playing, links with six local schools, and seven junior teams and four adult teams playing in Kent leagues. Always looking to the future, Chloe is trying to raise funds to improve and grow the facilities and to encourage more under-represented groups to get involved in tennis.

*For the full stories of Chloe and Dennis, go to [www.kenttennis.org](http://www.kenttennis.org)*



## Tennis Opened Up

The LTA recently announced a new vision for tennis in Britain, as part of a long-term strategy to grow the sport and open it up to many more people. You can read more about this on the LTA's website, but the below gives a brief overview.

Working closely together with County Associations, including our own, the LTA develops tennis in Britain from grassroots participation through to the professional game. By all aligning behind the sport's new vision of 'Tennis Opened Up', and the mission to grow the sport by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable, we can help more people enjoy the benefits of our amazing sport and get involved in the way they want to.

Tennis is a sport that anyone can play; whatever their ability, and whatever community or background they are from. They can play at any age and for a whole lifetime, and it can provide physical, social and mental rewards both on and off the court. As lovers of the sport, we all know this, but we want tennis to be open to as many people as possible, across the whole of Britain.

The new vision will be at the heart of everything the sport does going forward, and it is something everyone involved in tennis can get behind. Collectively, we want to see many more people pick up a racket, whether it's for the first time, or the first time in a while. We want to enable men and women of all ages and abilities to play more often, all year round. We know starting early is crucial to playing for the long-term too. We need more children to start playing and will do what it takes to make it as easy as possible for parents and kids across the whole of Britain to choose tennis, building new and developing existing relationships with schools and local communities, so more kids and young people than ever before are able to pick up a racket.

There remains a commitment to delivering a clear route for players to develop too – from starter sessions with our brilliant accredited coaches, to first-class support at the new National Academies due to open in the Autumn. The Player Pathway for tennis in Britain is designed to find and nurture the next generation of champions, with a particular focus on enabling young

players to break into the top 100, win medals at the Olympics and Paralympics, and in turn, inspire fans across the nation.

Without volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and venues, tennis simply can't exist. They all play an essential role in the future of our sport, and so they will be provided with the right investment and support, while we will continue to celebrate their wonderful work through our County Awards and at a regional and national level through the LTA Tennis Awards.

Continuing to build the visibility of tennis will help engage with thousands more fans so that we can bring them closer to the sport, offering new ways for them to enjoy and get the most out of tennis. Britain has a reputation for staging truly world-class tennis tournaments, and this standout calendar of major tennis events will continue, taking tennis to new areas with events throughout the year, so as many people as possible can watch top-class tennis action.

*We hope you share this vision for tennis for Britain, and the desire to see our sport and its benefits opened up to as many people as possible. To keep up to date with all the latest news and developments, make sure you check the LTA's website and follow their official social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Alternatively, if you have any questions you can contact the LTA's Services Team on 020 8487 7000 or via [info@lta.org.uk](mailto:info@lta.org.uk).*





### *LTA volunteer, Liz Murphy*

Based in Kent, Liz recently volunteered at and featured in the programme of the recent Fed Cup Play-offs between Great Britain and Kazakhstan.

At the heart of every successful event are a team of dedicated volunteers, who do their utmost to ensure visitors enjoy a great day out; it's support that regularly proves a more rewarding experience for the contributors themselves – Liz Murphy explains why she's looking forward to the Fed Cup more than most...

**I'm so excited to be here to share my passion and enthusiasm with fans coming to the match.**

I absolutely love tennis. I have enjoyed a long association with the sport. My eldest daughter is a tennis player and I spent hours watching her compete in junior tournaments. I play several times a week and watch it on tv whenever I can. I am very privileged and grateful for the opportunity to be so close to the action,

to provide a welcoming face to visitors, and to help the event be successful today.

**The volunteers at the Olympics in 2012 and the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow made a lasting impression on me.** They made for very happy and exciting events and were a huge part of my enjoyment of those games. It inspired me to want to be part of a team that provides that great experience for others.

**Having the Fed Cup matches in the UK is a rare opportunity to enthuse young and old about this great sport.** When I saw that the LTA were looking for volunteers for the last round, I thought it would be quite interesting to be involved, and I'm so glad I did. I loved it.

**Bath was the first time I had volunteered, and I had such a great time that I had no hesitation in putting my name forward again.** All the fans were so excited when they arrived at the venue so we had fun helping to sustain that buzz. It was an eye-opener as to how much volunteers can contribute to events like that and how much that can set the scene for a great occasion.

**I'm looking forward to sharing my knowledge of the local area.** I live in south east London, just a few miles from the Copper Box and I have lived in Stratford itself. I'm familiar with the venue because my youngest daughter has competed here many times with her cheerleading squad, plus I have been to the shopping centre and the Olympic Park many times.

**It is such a thrill to be involved again for this next historic stage;** helping as part of the team to make such a significant match a wonderful occasion for fans and players. It is such an important showcase for women's tennis and I can't wait.

*Would you be interested in following in Liz's footsteps and volunteering at a Kent Tennis event? Please contact us at:*

*[kent@kenttennis.org](mailto:kent@kenttennis.org)*

## Keith Spurgeon

We were saddened to hear the news that Keith Spurgeon of Tunbridge Wells LTC, whose tennis career spanned over four decades, had died in March.

Keith first appeared in the 1958 KLT after being selected as reserve for the Kent Men's side, travelling to Southsea in Division 2 where he partnered Ian Mackay. Keith had an amazing Kent tennis career winning 40 Kent titles (10 Men's Singles, 8 Men's Doubles, and 22 Mixed titles) plus 13 Men's Veteran Doubles wins. The total of 53 trophies is an all-time record in the annals of Kent Tennis, and is especially impressive as this was an era when all the top County players entered Kent events.

In 1962 Keith won the Summer Kent Mixed. Four years later, in 1966, he won the title with Miss Shirley Stapleton. Shirley became Mrs Spurgeon in 1968 and they celebrated by winning it from 1968 to 1972. In 1979 to 1980 Keith partnered Jenny Blyth-Lewis to victory, in 1981, 1982 and again in 1984 he was successful with Mrs H White. In the Winter Kent Mixed, with Shirley as his partner first as his fiancée and then his wife, he won from 1968 to 72. Moving on, he paired up with his sister-in-law Jill Stapleton, winning in 1976 and 1978-79. Two more titles with Mrs White followed in 1981 and 1982.

Beyond his Kent trophy collection, there was the National 55s Veteran Grass Court Doubles victory in 1986 where he partnered Ken Buswell, a major triumph at that time. He represented GB in the 55s age group at the ITF Veterans World Championships in 1986. Keith was awarded Kent County Colours in 1955 and Veterans Colours in 1981.

Keith was also a line and net court judge at Wimbledon for a number of years.

We extend our deep sympathy to his widow Shirley and his family.



The reconditioning of the grey courts was first discussed in 1960 and was carried out by Doe for £610 in 1962 along with renewal of the surround netting for all the hard courts. The state of the red shale courts came into question in January 1961, it being suggested even that they be declared unfit for play at weekends. An underground pipe burst in July 1957 and the Club was responsible for its renewal, costing £60. In 1956 the temporary centre court stand was to stay in position from 27th July to 27th August for both the Open and Junior Tournaments. The table tennis table was disposed of for £10 in 1963.

In April 1964 Dick Robinson bought for a song a 12 by 8 foot hut for storage of chairs, nets and posts which he thought might also come in useful for the referee during the Open Tournament. He had recently married and, moving the next year to Ticehurst with an addition to the family, he felt that it was time to bring the Robinson era to an end. In 1965 there was a possibility of the Club's acquiring a covered court if Kent were allocated one by the LTA - but Kent was not favoured. At the Club Finals Day in 1965 another acknowledgement of long service took place when Harry and Sybil Burden were presented with a tea trolley, a folding clock and cash to celebrate their Silver Wedding. Rupert Knight took over as Chairman in 1966 followed for two years by Hardy Waters, a stalwart tennis supporter and father of Sue Teubler.

In 1969 there was a big fall in membership to 312 (428 members) as can be seen in the graph on page 26, which led to serious financial problems. The En-Tout-Cas shale courts were in urgent need of resurfacing but no money was available to do the job.

The Spurgeons, Shirley and Keith, figured prominently in both the Club and the Kent competitive arena during the late 1960s.

The table of winners of the Club Closed Competitions in Appendix A shows that Shirley, as Miss S Stapleton, won her first title in 1963, the Mixed Doubles, and Keith his first, the Men's Singles, in 1964. In 1968 they won every open event, the Men's and Ladies' Singles and Doubles as well as the Mixed Doubles; and in 1969 Keith won the Kent Summer pairs. Overarching these achievements is the record of the Club's most prolific winner, Sue Teubler, who won her first singles title as Miss S E Waters in 1948 and then, later as Mrs F D Teubler, dominated the scene until Shirley Spurgeon came along to take her singles title in 1967 - not forgetting an interlude of three years starting in 1962 when a certain Virginia Wade won the singles title before going off later to take the Ladies' Singles at Wimbledon.



Keith & Shirley Spurgeon in 1980

## Ruth Illingworth

Seniors Tennis GB reported the death at the age of 87 of Ruth Illingworth with great sadness. Ruth was a key member of winning British teams at the ITF World Team Championships in the 60, 65, 70 and 75 age groups as well as achieving many successes in the Individual Championships. She was World No 1 at 70 having won the world singles championship in 2001 and in her international career had 107 wins and 26 losses in singles. Her main successes were in doubles when, with Rita Lauder, she won multiple titles from the age of 60 onwards.

Domestically, Ruth's compact and efficient game brought singles successes at the Clay Court Championships in 1992 and 2003 and at the Grass Court Championships in 1996, 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2011. She and Rita won nearly all the doubles events they entered on grass from the 40s doubles in 1985 through to the 75s from 2007 to 2010.

She was twice a world champion in veterans tennis at the ages of 70 and 75. When she was 79 she was named Veteran Player of the Year at the 2010 British Tennis Awards. Ruth received the European Player of the year award in her age group. She was also a great supporter of county tennis, representing Notts for many years and Kent in her latter years. Her tennis career saw her play grand slams, beat greats such as Virginia Wade and travel the world.

"I once beat Virginia Wade. She was only 17 at the time, but I still beat her."

Ruth Illingworth passed away on January 11 aged 87. She had been living with terminal cancer for almost three years, but had been playing regularly up until that time. Ruth had been a member of Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club since 2000. A grass court specialist, the courts at the Nevill Ground had served her well.

Former LTA chief executive Roger Draper said: "Ruth is proof that tennis is most definitely a lifelong sport that can be enjoyed by anybody, regardless of age. Ruth is the perfect example of the adage 'tennis is a sport for a lifetime'."



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## We Need Your News

Is your club celebrating a special anniversary this year? Have you just opened new facilities? Has your club or your coach done something new, exciting or successful in recent months? Is there something special coming up this year? Would recent experiences at your club be useful to other clubs around the county?

If so, please let us know.

We need articles with photos for our next edition of KLT Magazine, which will be published in October 2019.

*The deadline for the next edition is 31st August 2019*

*Please send your articles and photos to  
klt@kenttennis.org*

### Guidelines for the wording of your articles:

- 1) **Maximum 400 words**
- 2) In some cases longer articles of up to 500 words will be considered.
- 3) Our editorial team may edit your articles before publication.
- 4) Please supply the name, email address and contact numbers of the person who has written the article so that they can be contacted, if necessary

### Guidelines for photographs:

- 1) Please supply a **photo** with your article.
- 2) Please provide the names of the people in the photo or a caption.
- 3) Please ensure that you have permission to use the photograph you supply to the KLT.
- 4) Photo requirements:  
Original size photographs are always better.
- 5) 1MB is a good size guide
- 6) From mobile phone always send any images that are actual size or Large sized only.
- 7) Please remember that screen images are lower resolution than is required for print.
- 8) Ideally all images should be 300dpi.

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