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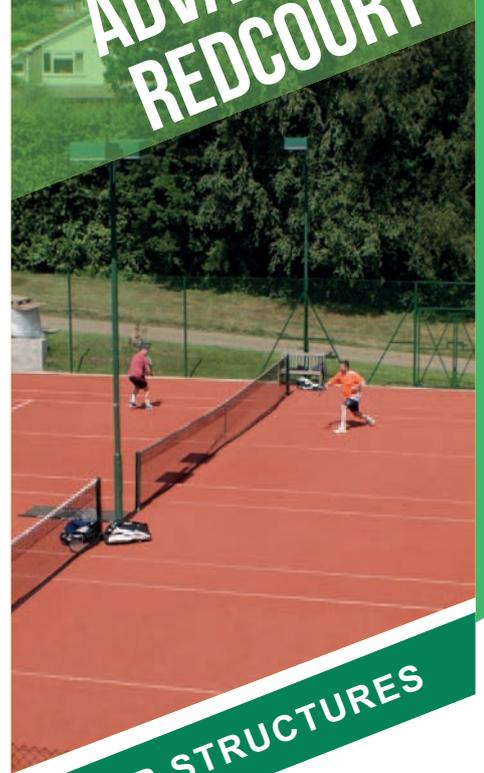
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AT THE SURFACE OF SPORT 

Editorial

Welcome to the autumn edition of the KLT. You will notice a new look layout based on our new branding, colours and logo linked to the new LTA logo that we introduced to you in the spring edition.

As for news, it's a bumper edition following a very busy and successful summer and much to share. Our top story is about the LTA Awards, a record year for Kent and a National Winner. There is great news about County team success with our Men's team and our Men's Over 35s team claiming National titles, and many Kent players of all ages have starred on the National and International stage. There is plenty of competition news and club news including a last minute report about the excellent Kent Tennis Open Day at Oakwood Tennis Club. And we all know that little would happen in Kent Tennis without a passionate and committed workforce so we've also included some news about coaches, officials and volunteers.

You may have read that we were to carry out a summer survey about how we best share news with everyone. There is an indication that we should communicate news more regularly and using a digital format. If we go ahead with this idea, individuals as well as clubs would be invited to subscribe to receive news directly with key stories in each edition and easy to read on a phone or tablet. Look out for an invitation to subscribe and keep in touch with Kent Tennis.

Meanwhile enjoy this amazing read.

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New Look

Branding Update

As you will have seen, the LTA recently launched a new branding alongside a new strategy and vision. This encouraged Kent Tennis to take a fresh look at its approach and work has been done to refresh our branding, and review our communications and our website.

Kent Tennis has developed a distinct identity over many years and we were keen to keep elements of this but to update our look. We want to ensure that we are connected and aligned to the LTA, our governing body, but to recognise that we have our own distinct character in Kent Tennis. We felt that it was important to keep our traditional symbol of the Kent horse and the recognisable dark green colour, so this was our starting point.

A range of logo designs was produced and then tested with a cross-section of members across clubs in Kent, totalling just under 100 people. A clear winner came through and this was tested with another design, using our Kent Tennis Instagram and Facebook pages with another 100 people involved in tennis in Kent.

Our final logo, which incorporates the LTA logo to demonstrate that we are working together to open up tennis, is shown here.



We will be rolling out the new branding across all our Kent Tennis activities, including this edition of the KLT, over the next few months and through 2020, so please look out for our new look. Our next project is to update our website and we will keep you posted on progress.

Awards

LTA Meritorious Services Award for Cynthia

Cynthia Smith was honoured by the LTA for her service to tennis in a presentation made during the Nature Valley International Tournament at Eastbourne in June. Her story is as follows:

Cynthia retired in 2018 as Kent Tennis Seniors Tennis Organiser and Senior Ladies Teams Organiser, having been involved in Kent Tennis development and organisation of teams for 40 years. She began her involvement in 1976 through her own children playing tennis. She first served on the Kent Tennis Development Committee, as the Junior Leagues Competition Secretary, and for many years ran an Easter Junior American Tournament. As a player she joined the ranks of County teams in the 50s age group and played for every age group thereafter until the 75s. She captained the 60s team through promotion to Division 1 where they stayed throughout her captaincy and her 70s team won the National Championships in 2011 and 2012. She won three individual county senior titles and represented Kent no less than 124 times. At a higher level, Cynthia won 4 National doubles titles, played for England twice in the Four Nations event and represented Great Britain in World Senior Team Championships from 2001 to 2007 and again from 2009 to 2012. Altogether she won nine World Titles.

In the 1980s and 1990s she was Kent Ladies Match Secretary and supported the Team Captains in a manager role. She organised an annual invitation tournament for ladies from 1991 to 1999 and then again from 2011 to current.

In addition to her playing and administration achievements, Cynthia has remained a staunch and encouraging supporter of all aspects of Kent Tennis, both alongside her husband Austin Smith in his duties as Kent Tennis President, and with the Kent Ladies. She continues to support Kent teams at county matches and county week, and volunteers for the greeting desk at the County Championships. She is ever-present at junior tournaments supporting her grandchildren and at various club and county events. She hopes to continue to be involved by arranging friendly Over 80s matches with other counties.



Awards

Record Number of LTA Award Winners

After the Kent Tennis Awards presentation in the spring, celebrations continued into the summer when five of our County winners went on to win LTA Regional London and the South East Awards in their categories, four were National Finalists and Luke House won the LTA National Coach of the Year Award. And as an extra bonus, Emma Raducanu was given the Junior Girl Player of the Year Award. She was selected by the LTA Performance team. Wow! A record for Kent and indeed any county since the Awards began in 2016.

The presentation of the Regional Awards took place at the Nature Valley International Tournament at Eastbourne. The trophies and certificates were given off court and then, between matches on Centre Court, the winners were presented to the crowd and received a huge applause. It was televised and aired as part of the tournament.

The National event was held at Wimbledon on the first Tuesday. Finalists were treated to a delightful day with lunch, tea and Centre Court tickets. The ceremony was hosted by Leon Smith, Davis Cup Captain, along with celebrities from the worlds of sport and TV who were on hand to give out the prizes. Some finalists even had the thrill of meeting the Duchess of Cambridge.

Luke House (left) was National and Regional Coach of the Year. Luke had made an enormous contribution to growing the membership and coaching programme at Shooters Hill Club. He is a highly regarded LTA tutor and one of the initiators of the growing Kent Coach Network.

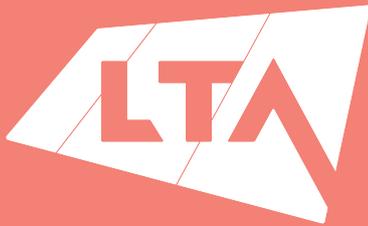
Jim Barton (centre) was a National Finalist and Regional winner for the Disability Programme Award. Jimmy's Tennis is based at Frindsbury Tennis Club and in the surrounding Medway area. He has a large programme for players of all ages with disabilities and players in wheelchairs, and volunteers extra time to coaching individual players who find it difficult to join a group.

Deal Parochial Primary School (right) was a National Finalist and Regional winner of the Education Award. Pupils at the school in years 1-6 all play tennis weekly, and the school runs after-school clubs, teams and trips to major events. See page 29 to read more about Deal Parochial.

Oakwood Tennis Club (centre left) was a National Finalist and Regional winner of the Club Award. Volunteers and coaches have worked together to significantly improve the facilities and grow the coaching programme and membership.

Peter Stotesbury (centre right) was a Regional winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Peter is from The Parklangley Club and has volunteered his time for over 60 years in various roles and played a major part in the development of the fantastic facilities at the club.





TENNIS
AWARDS



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County Teams

Introducing our new Kent Performance Managers



In July 2019 Kent Tennis were delighted to welcome Harry Bushnell and Rob Smith to the Kent Performance Team. Harry will be working with the 11U County Coaches and Rob with the 12U - 18U County Coaches. Their mission is to work together, with support from Kent Tennis, to deliver the highest quality County training and County teams programme in the country with the aim to get all age groups in the County Cup to National Finals by 2022. They will be introducing a syllabus for all the County coaches to follow and will be setting goals with their team and supporting them through the year.

If you have children playing competitive tennis around the county you will be seeing Harry and Rob at tournaments and events. We thought you might like to know a bit more about them...

Harry Bushnell is a Level 5 Master Performance Coach and has worked primarily with performance players in the younger (11U) age groups over the past 15 years, developing players who have reached county, regional, national and international level in their age groups.

Harry is Head of Performance at The Parklangley Club, one of the four LTA Local Player Development Centres in Kent, a position he has held for 10 years. He played for Kent as a junior, representing the County in the Boys 18U age group. He is currently one of the longest serving County Cup Captains, having being joint captain of the Boys 11U in 2003 before taking on the Girls 14U role in 2006 and then the Girls 10U in 2012, where his teams have constantly challenged for the national title and qualified for the National Finals for four years in a row. This year he also captained the Mixed 9U County team, who were Regional Champions.

Harry brings a wealth of experience to the team and is relishing his new role as 11U Kent Performance Manager.



Rob Smith started playing tennis aged 12 and, by the time he was 14, he was involved in 'B' squad County Training. He quickly moved into the 'A' squad, which gave him his first taste of County Cup training, and represented Kent on many occasions as a junior including at U18 County Cup Division 1.

After A-Levels, Rob played tennis full-time for three years competing in events throughout Europe, America and Australia. Whilst playing full-time, he completed LTA coaching qualifications, becoming a Level 5 Master Performance Coach aged 21 - one of the youngest coaches in the country to do so. From 2000 - 2002 he worked for Kent LTA as Assistant County Performance Officer and was involved in County Cup as Captain of the 10U and 11U Boys teams, and Vice-Captain of the 18U Boys team, winning National titles with each team. Between 2003 - 2008 Rob was Head Coach of Bromley Tennis Academy, one of 19 LTA High Performance Centres. Since 2008 he has worked with many full-time and professional players on both the ATP and the WTA Tours, including:

- Sharon Fichman (Canada - 77 WTA)
- Naomi Cavaday (Kent - 174 WTA)
- Katie Swan (GBR - former world no.2 junior and currently ranked 234 WTA)
- Daniel Nestor (Canada - former world no.1 doubles player, holder of 91 titles including gold medal at the Sydney Olympics)
- Dom Inglot (GBR - Davis Cup winner, Wimbledon doubles semi-finalist and former world number 18).

Rob brings valuable experience to Kent Tennis and is enjoying working with the County teams once again.

Harry and Rob will be the first point of contact for all County training players and parents. You can contact them at: harry.bushnell@kenttennis.org.uk and rob.smith@kenttennis.org.uk. Kent Tennis is very pleased to have Rob and Harry on board and looking forward to working with them during 2020 and beyond.

County Teams

9U Mixed County Cup

Date: 17th August 2019

Venue: Bromley Tennis Centre

Captain: Harry Bushnell

Vice-Captain: Tom Samson

Players: Anastasia Nahornaya, Toby Gwinnell, Alex Mirrington, Ruby Marriage, Imogen Smith, Alex Bickerton, Ben McLoughlin, & Lisa Bolton

Results: Beat Sussex 6-3, Beat Berkshire 8-1, Beat Essex 8-1 and Beat Surrey 6-3



We began this year's competition against Sussex, who gave us a real run for our money early doors, and after the boys' singles we found ourselves behind and needing our girls to get us out of trouble. They responded emphatically, winning all three of their singles matches which set us up nicely for the three remaining doubles rubbers. Whilst we needed just one more win to secure victory, we managed two to win comfortably in what was a tough start.

Berkshire were next and Kent were in no mood to mess around, we earned the win after winning all six singles rubbers and didn't stop there as we also took two of the three doubles.

With momentum gathering it was Essex next. Down in all three boys' singles, against a team who looked very clinical, our boys got the measure of their opponents, and we went into the girls' singles with a 3-0 advantage. There was just no stopping our girls, who were on fire and we once again wrapped up the win with the doubles to spare, two of which we won, giving us an impressive win by an even more impressive margin. Our rest came at a great time as it meant we could scout our final opponents who were none other than our old foes, Surrey.

The match against Surrey in the final round would decide the overall winners of the event. All of a sudden the pressure ramped up as our boys fell 1-2 behind after their singles matches. The girls were involved in three hard-fought matches which they all won in unbelievable fashion, each match going the distance. At 4-3 ahead we knew we needed one more win in the doubles. We fielded our strongest pairs as we were confident our doubles pairings were strong and the players didn't disappoint, winning two out of the last three matches for a 6-3 win.

Kent were regional champions for a fifth time in six years, on home turf at Bromley Tennis Centre. In my first year as captain, it really couldn't get much better than that!

12U Girls County Cup - Qualifying

Date: 29th & 30th June 2019

Venue: The Sundridge Park Club

Captain: Martin Whitehouse

Vice-Captain: Sarah Wray

Players: Lois Newberry, Eloise Newberry, Daisy Rowland, Chloe Cleaver

Results: Beat Essex 8-0, Beat Hampshire & IOW 8-0, Beat Sussex 4-5 (shootout)
Lost to Middlesex 6-2, Finished Runners Up to Middlesex



With training completed, the Kent team travelled to The Sundridge Park Club looking forward to the challenge of competing against the counties of Essex, Hampshire & IOW, Middlesex and Sussex.

Essex were Kent's first opponents on the Saturday morning. Daisy started off for Kent, winning 5-4, 4-0 after a tight opening set. The second match on saw Eloise comfortably win 4-2, 4-1. Not to be outdone by her sister, Lois, playing number one closed her match out 4-2, 4-0. In the doubles the sisters teamed up to complete win their doubles and the team had a 4-0 victory over Essex.

Saturday's afternoon challenge came in the shape of Hampshire & IOW. Playing at number three, Chloe won her first match of the weekend 4-0, 4-1. Playing at two for Kent, Eloise swept to a 4-1, 4-0 victory, closely followed by Lois winning 4-0, 4-0. To finish off the tie, the new pairing of Daisy and Chloe completed a 4-0, 4-1 victory.

Sunday morning brought more amazingly sunny weather and the challenge of Sussex. Playing at number 3, Chloe fought hard but went down 4-2, 4-0. Building on her strong performances from the day before Eloise levelled the tie with a dominant performance, winning 5-3, 4-1. A near perfect performance from the Sussex number one left Kent trailing 1-2 in the tie, heading into the doubles. The trusty pairing of Lois and Eloise levelled things up for Kent with a fighting performance winning 5-4, 4-1 to take the match to a shootout. Playing some great doubles Lois and Eloise keep their nerve to close out the tie-break giving Kent a hard-fought victory.

In their final match Kent took on the other unbeaten team of the weekend, Middlesex. Leading off for Kent, Daisy came up against an amazingly strong Middlesex number three who, despite Daisy's determination, beat her 0-4, 1-4. Eloise again put in a fighting display but went down 2-4, 2-4 to give Middlesex a 2-0 lead. With the tie seemingly slipping away from Kent, Lois made an amazing comeback to sneak a close first set 5-4 and then went on to win the second 4-1 to keep things alive going into the doubles. After winning a tight first set the Middlesex pair closed out the match and tie to give the team from Middlesex a place in the National Finals.

A big congratulations to Lois, Eloise, Daisy and Chloe for their efforts over an amazingly hot weekend and a massive thank you to all the parents and supporters who turned up over the two days to cheer the team on.

County Teams

10U Boys County Cup - Qualifying

Date: 25th & 26th May 2019

Venue: Chichester Racquets & Fitness Club

Captain: Brett Spencer-Stephens

Vice-Captain: Ben Roger

Players: Tommaso Cuomo, Nathaniel De Mariveles, Herbie Smith, Arran Avril

Results: Beat Hampshire Isle of 8-0, Beat Berkshire 8-0, Beat Sussex 6-2, Beat Gloucestershire 6-2



It was always going to be tough to match the achievements of the last two years when Kent 10U Boys teams were National Champions, especially with a completely new team and captains. However, we arrived in Chichester full of confidence and up for the challenge.

Herbie got us off to a blistering start against Hampshire and Isle of Wight taking the first set without his opponent securing a single point. The second set proved trickier, but Herbie prevailed. Our number 2, Nate, and number 1, Tommy, then backed up the win with convincing victories to secure our first team win of the day. Arran made his County Cup debut with Tommy in the doubles. After winning the first set without much trouble, the pair found themselves up against it in the second as their opponents upped the level dramatically to force a third set tiebreak. The boys produced a near perfect tiebreak to clinch the match, which really fired the team up for the next tie.

Berkshire proved to be a stiffer test. Herbie took control in the first set of his match, looking super solid once again. At the same time Nate was in a toe to toe battle against a tough opponent. Nate came through the first set in a tiebreak and won the second comfortably. Herbie's opponent upped his game in set 2, but Herbie found a way of coming through to win the match. Tommy got off to a blistering start against their number 1, taking the first set without dropping a game. We knew his opponent had the ability to bounce back, which he did in the second set, but Tommy dug deep and took the second set tiebreak. In the doubles Nate teamed up with Tommy and they put on a professional performance to win against a good pair. 8-0 Kent.

The following day saw us take on Sussex who were arguably our toughest opponents of the weekend. Herbie and Nate both got out of the blocks very fast in their singles to take the first set with minimal damage. Tommy was next on against a very solid number 1, winning the first set but losing the second and the championship tiebreak. Nate's second set was very tight against a strong Sussex number 2. The score line went

back and forth, but Nate was able to get the break at 3-3 and seal the deal on serve, to put us in a very strong position at 2 rubbers to 1, leading into the doubles.

Before the important doubles against Sussex, we had to face Gloucestershire. Herbie and Nate stormed through their matches and we all got behind Tommy to help him over the finish line in a close encounter which could have gone either way. 6-0 up and our third win of the weekend.

We knew that winning the doubles against Sussex would mean qualification through to the Finals. Tommy and Nate were the pair given to job of securing our spot and both delivered a flawless performance. Next stop - Sunderland.

Finals - Kent are National Runners Up

Date: 7th to 9th June 2019

Venue: Sunderland Tennis Centre

Captain: Brett Spencer-Stephens

Vice-Captain: Ben Roger

Players: Tommaso Cuomo, Matthew McLain, Nathaniel De Mariveles, Herbie Smith, Arran Avril

Results: Beat North Wales 8-0, Beat Dorset 8-0, Beat Cambridgeshire 8-0, Lost to Middlesex on a tiebreak shootout 5-4

After a successful qualifying campaign, we were pretty confident in the ability of the team upon arrival in Sunderland. Our first match was against North Wales. They had never qualified for the Finals so we thought they might be nervous going into the competition. The Kent boys wasted no time powering through to win 8-0, with our secret weapons, Herbie and Arran, coming out to take the win in the doubles.

Day 2 saw us take on Dorset and, in similar fashion, we dominated from start to finish and took the tie 8-0. Our final match of the day was against a Cambridgeshire team who were without their very strong number one as he had to leave to compete in another tournament. We carried over our form from the morning with all five of the boys looking very focussed in the singles and doubles, winning each match in straight sets. We knew that going into the last day we had our work cut out as Middlesex were a strong team. To win we would have to battle hard to have any chance of taking the title back home to the Garden.

First up was Tommy who produced some of the best tennis I'd seen him play all weekend to defeat their number one in the blink of an eye. It was then up to Matt McLain to mount more pressure on the Middlesex team. He faced a very tough opponent who had looked flawless all weekend. In a flash, Matt saw himself facing defeat at 4-0, 3-0, match-point down. He obviously didn't know when he was beaten as he somehow managed to take the second set 5-3. Matt carried this momentum through into the 3rd set tiebreak and took the set, and the win, which put us further ahead. Nate now had the tough task of taking on a player to whom he had lost the last couple of times they had played. After getting off to a decent start, his opponent began to pull away and he lost the first set. Whilst Nate put up a valiant effort in the 2nd set it was a little too late and he ended up losing in straight sets.

As on so many other occasions it was now down to the doubles to decide the tie. Although we were still 2-1 up in rubbers Middlesex definitely had the momentum having won the last singles match. Tommy and Matt went on against a very strong pair who had a reputation for saving their team in the doubles in similar situations. After having numerous chances to mount the pressure we never really got a foothold in the match and the boys fell short in a close contest which went to a tiebreak shootout. Tom and Matt went down 6-2 very quickly and, although they fought hard to bring the score back to a respectable 6-5, it wasn't enough and the Middlesex pair were able to secure the win and became National Champions.

County Teams

10U Girls County Cup - Qualifying

Date: 25th & 26th May 2019

Venue: Brighton/Hove

Captain: Harry Bushnell

Vice-Captain: Holly Richards

Players: Nikita Phillips, Rozellah Nkereuwem, Bella Thomson and Genevieve Jeer

Results: Beat Hampshire & IOW 8-0, Beat Berkshire 8-0, Beat Sussex 8-0 and Beat Gloucestershire 8-0



The Kent girls were more prepared than ever this year due to the new County Training structure and were ready to go from the first ball.

After beating Hampshire & IOW in a reasonably comfortable fashion our match against Berkshire was not as straight forward as the score line suggests. That said, our girls were solid in the important moments, with Bella and Rozie in particular, coming through some tough points.

We were halfway there but had to play the home team, Sussex, the following day, which we knew would be a competitive match.

Conditions for our match against Sussex were really tough. Bella and Rozie were amazing in the wind and got us off to a great start. But it was the match between the number 1's which we knew would be tight. Nikita played an absolutely wonderful match, getting off to a blistering start with winners coming from all over the court. With her opponent doing everything to stay in the match, and after a second set dip which saw her fall behind, Nikita once again turned on the style and took the match in straight sets. It was a breath-taking performance and we were one match away from the National Finals.

Against Gloucestershire it was important to keep our focus and get the job done. We didn't want any slip ups and the girls didn't disappoint, winning the match in very convincing fashion.

The job was complete and we were off to the Finals for a fourth straight year and we did it without dropping a set. This was an impressive display from the girls who all played their part in a highly successful weekend. Genevieve Jeer, who was selected for doubles, was getting better and better as the matches went on and it was great to see her teamwork with Nikita developing. We knew that if we could nail the doubles anything was possible going into the National Finals.

Date: 7th to 9th June 2019

Venue: Sunderland Tennis Centre

Captain: Harry Bushnell

Vice-Captain: Holly Richards

Players: Nikita Phillips, Rozellah Nkereuwem, Bella Thomson and Genevieve Jeer

Results: Beat Cheshire 6-2, Beat Buckinghamshire 6-2, Lost to Middlesex 0-8 and Beat Lancashire 5-4 (Kent win on tiebreak shootout)

Competing against each team at this stage of the event was going to be tough and when the draw came out we knew that we were in for a real fight if we were going to match the recent Kent success in the competition.

Up first were the fourth seeds, Cheshire, who looked a very solid team, but after the singles we were 2-1 ahead. Then Nikita and Genevieve took to the courts for the doubles and we were confident we could take the match. They didn't disappoint coming through a tight three set battle.

A win on day one always settles the nerves and the girls were in full flow against Buckinghamshire on Saturday morning. The match followed the same pattern as the previous day, with our girls getting better and better to set things up nicely for our final group match against Middlesex. They were also undefeated, proved a very stern test and their team was extremely strong. Whilst all the girls tried their hardest, it just wasn't enough, and even though the matches were competitive, we were defeated and they would go through to the final.

It was important to pick the girls up for the final day as there was still a third place finish on the line against our old foes Lancashire. The girls were up against it. But with Nikita winning her match at number 1 we always had a chance in the doubles which the girls won with ease. All that was left was the match shootout to decide the tie.

I was confident the girls had the tools to win and it was a case of execution and concentration. Lancashire changed their team in what seemed desperation, but I was always going with Nikita and Genevieve. Our girls were simply too good and they secured third place for Kent in truly spectacular style with some classy doubles play and great team work.

It was again a massive achievement to finish where we did and I'd like to thank all of the girls for their commitment to the event, their efforts on court, and for their sheer tenacity at the Finals. It is a demanding three days up in Sunderland but they stepped up and delivered.

2019 Junior County Colours Awarded to:

Emma Sawkings

Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale

Alaia Rubio Perez

Tommy Harrison

Luke Ralph

Archie Turner

County Teams

12U Boys County Cup - Qualifying

Date: 29th & 30th June 2019

Venue: Caunton LTC, Newark

Captain: Dominic Cobby

Vice-Captain: Tom Samson

Players: Michael Nkereuwm, Isaac Forde, Monty Depreli, Jake Wilson

Results: Lost to Cambridgeshire 4-4 (shoot out), Beat Nottinghamshire 8-0, Beat Derbyshire 8-0, Beat Cambridgeshire 6-2



On a baking hot day we started off against Cambridgeshire playing all 3 singles at the same time with Michael playing at number 1, Isaac playing at 2 and Monty playing at 3. Isaac fought hard but lost out to a consistent opponent in straight sets. Michael played some great tennis getting through a tight first set in a tie break and winning a comfortable 2nd set to get Kent back to 1-1. The 3rd singles match was really close, it could have gone either way but Cambridgeshire edged it on two tie-breaks in a long match with Monty unlucky not to get the win. 4-2 to Cambridgeshire with the doubles to play later in the afternoon.

Nottinghamshire were up next, again all 3 singles were played first at the same time. Jake came in at number 3 with Michael and Isaac at 1 and 2 again and between them they dropped just 4 games with dominant performances producing some great tennis. 6-0 to Kent after the singles.

In the afternoon we had our doubles, the first doubles was against Cambridgeshire. Michael and Jake won the first set 4-1 and managed to edge the 2nd set 5-3 to take the match into a shootout. Cambridgeshire changed one of their doubles players for the shootout and it paid off. Kent never really settled, with the Cambridgeshire pair making fewer errors and taking the shootout 10-4 to win the match.

Monty and Isaac played the doubles vs Nottinghamshire and were excellent, winning in straight sets to give Kent an 8-0 win overall and take them through to the semi-finals the next day.

In the semi-finals we were up against Derbyshire who had won their box. Kent stuck with the same singles line up and the boys continued where they left off, performing well and winning all 3 matches. Michael was too strong for his opponent and Isaac and Jake held their nerves, with Isaac winning a close first set tie break and Jake winning a championship tiebreak. Michael and Monty won the doubles to cap a great team display to take Kent through to the final with an 8-0 win.

In the final Kent were up against Cambridgeshire whom they had lost to the day before so knew it would be a tough match. With Michael, Isaac and Jake playing so well in the semi-finals they deserved to keep their places for the final and were determined to win. They really stepped up their games and had far too much for Cambridgeshire this time, dropping just one set in all 3 singles matches. Although Monty and Jake lost the doubles it meant that Kent won the final 6-2 and qualified for County Cup finals. After a difficult first morning all four boys showed great attitude, played some amazing tennis and really deserved to win.

Next stop the 12U Boys County Cup Finals.

Finals - Kent Finish Fourth

Date: 29th & 30th June 2019

Venue: Caunton LTC, Newark

Captain: Dominic Cobby

Vice-Captain: Tom Samson

Players: Michael Nkereuwm, Isaac Forde, Monty Depreli, Jake Wilson

Results: Lost to North of Scotland 6-2, Beat Surrey 8-0, Beat Gloucestershire 6-2, Lost to Middlesex 6-2

The first match was against North of Scotland. Playing at 3 Monty played really well and took the first set but his opponent fought back and won the 2nd set, forcing a championship tiebreak. The North of Scotland edged the tiebreak 10-6 barely making an error, to put them 2-0 up. The number 2's were next on court and Isaac sprinted out of the blocks winning the first set 4-0, but his opponent dug in and refused to miss, winning the 2nd set in a tiebreak and winning the championship tiebreak 10-3 in a great match. At 4-0 down Kent needed Michael to win and he produced probably the best tennis of the weekend, winning in straight sets. He was back on in the doubles with Jake but the very good North of Scotland pair were too strong, winning 4-0 4-2 to give them a 6-2 win overall.

Kent faced a strong Surrey side on Saturday morning. It was Kent's best team display of the weekend. Monty set the tone winning 4-1 4-2 and Isaac was just as good winning 4-1 4-1 with both boys playing attacking tennis throughout. Michael had his toughest match so far and just came through, winning a championship tiebreak 11-9 playing very brave tennis on big points. In the doubles Jake and Isaac played for the first time together and were excellent only losing 3 games with great teamwork and net play. 8-0 to Kent.

In the afternoon Kent needed to beat Gloucestershire to have any chance of winning their box. Again Monty and Isaac put Kent 4-0 up, they had too much for their opponents both winning 2-0 in sets to give Kent the perfect start. The number 1's played a hard fought match, this time Michael losing in a Championship tie break to give Gloucestershire hope going into the doubles. Jake and Isaac continued to play well together and won their doubles match in straight sets giving Kent a 6-2 win. In the end Kent finished 2nd in their box, losing out to North of Scotland by just 1 rubber.

Kent played Middlesex on the Sunday to decide 3rd and 4th place. With Monty injured, Jake played at 3 but came up against a strong opponent who played well and deserved to win to go 2-0 up. Isaac fought until the end but was also beaten by his opponent who was too good on the day, so Kent were 4-0 down. In a high quality match Michael played his 3rd Championship tiebreak in a row, this time winning to get Kent back in the tie. In the best doubles match of the weekend Jake and Isaac lost 11-9 in the Championship tiebreak in a match that could have gone either way throughout. With Middlesex winning 6-2 Kent finished 4th overall. The Kent team were all superb in what was a fantastic weekend.

County Teams

Men's Over 35s County Cup - National Champions

Date: 23rd to 25th August 2019

Venue: Devonshire Park, Eastbourne

Captain: Oliver Freelove

Players: Andy Burgoyne, Alastair Filmer, Oliver Freelove, Jim May, Joe Edwards, Zane Cheeseman



We returned to Devonshire Park to defend our 2018 national title and we were keen to continue from where we left off. The weekend started superbly and continued in that vein, with all team members producing quality performances. This resulted in Kent winning every rubber played, beating Hertfordshire 5-0, Leicester 5-0 and Yorkshire 3-0 and losing only one set in the whole weekend!

Playing number 1 singles, Jim May produced tennis of the highest quality to brush all his opponents aside, he was simply a cut above the rest.

Andy Burgoyne and Alastair Filmer teamed up in doubles for the last couple of days and once again showed that they were a force to be reckoned with, as has been the case in the last few years, dominating their opponents.

Joe Edwards made his first appearance in the Over 35s team, playing doubles this year. He teamed up first with Andy Burgoyne and later Jim May. He played some great tennis which helped the team to maintain their winning momentum.

Zane Cheeseman came in on Sunday, the last day, for singles against Yorkshire and he beat a tricky customer at no. 2 to start our day on the right note. The only slight downside was my hamstring pull playing at no. 2 singles on day two. I did manage to complete the match with a win and had the pleasure of cheering the boys on to victory against Yorkshire on Sunday!

It was a fantastic weekend of tennis. I have a great group of guys with an incredible team spirit who are an absolute pleasure to captain. They always make time and take pride in competing for Kent. I am not sure the feat of losing just one set in the whole weekend in Group 1 will ever be repeated or bettered.

Ladies Over 35s County Cup

Date: 2nd to 4th August 2019 **Venue:** Devonshire Park, Eastbourne

Co- Captains: Kate Hands and Karen Thomas

Players: Kate Hands, Karen Thomas, Lindsey Goddard, Rebecca Cooper, Suzy Russell

Results: Beat Norfolk 3-2; Beat Wiltshire 4-1; Lost to Hereford & Worcester 2-3



We welcomed two new singles players to the team this year, Lindsey and Becky, who proved themselves to be fantastic new additions.

On the first day Lindsey was up first and delivered a cracking performance against Norfolk to give us our first rubber. Becky had a tougher induction but showed great resilience in a tough situation. Becky and Lindsey paired up to deliver a great doubles win and with Kate and Karen winning one of their doubles (with both their doubles matches decided on championship tie breaks), we won the match 3-2. The second day saw us on Centre Court against Wiltshire, which was a great privilege and inspiration for us all. Lindsey delivered another great performance getting us off to a winning start and then Becky, showing how determined she is, came back from a set and 3-0 down to win her singles in a championship tie break. Kate and Karen won both their doubles (just one championship tie break needed this time!) whilst Becky and Lindsey narrowly lost their doubles, meaning a 4-1 win overall.

On the final day we played Hereford and Worcester for promotion. Given the importance of the match, the opponents called in a super sub overnight that meant the singles were rather too tough for us and we went 2-0 down. Kate and Karen beat the doubles pair and Lindsey and Becky managed a very gutsy win against them (11-9 in the championship tie break) to bring the rubber back to 2-2. The deciding match was Kate and Karen against the two singles players. Unfortunately we lost 10-8 in a championship tie break - it couldn't have been any closer. The bitter disappointment at coming so close (quite against the odds given the quality of the team we were playing) was partially mitigated by our pride in pushing them so hard and having delivered such a strong team performance throughout the three days.

Ultimately, as one of our highly experienced supporters summed it up, we were pipped at the post by the finest of margins. It has made us all the more determined to get there next year.

County Teams

Men's County Cup - National Champions

Date: 22nd to 26th July 2019

Venue: Devonshire Park, Eastbourne

Captain: Andy Burgoyne

Vice-Captain: Rob Searle

Players: Lewis Burton, Nick Brookes, Sean Thornley, Matthew Summers, James Davis, Francis Sargeant, James Markiewicz, Rob Searle

Results: Beat Herts 6-3, Beat Essex 6-3, Beat Suffolk 7-2, Beat Middlesex 6-3
Beat South Wales 6-0



Dropping out of Group 1 last year had made the men of Kent hungry for success in 2019 and with many of the team from our 2016 National victory as well as the new young guns, we looked strong on the practice courts of Devonshire Park.

Day 1 vs Herts

The first day's line up was Lewis Burton and Francis Sargeant, Matt Summers and James Davis and Nick Brookes with Sean Thornley. The early exchanges went well and at lunch we had a slim 2-1 lead. In one of the matches of the week Francis and Lewis saved match points, taking out the Herts talisman in a third set tie break. The men of Kent finished a big first day win.

Day 2 vs Essex

Both teams having won on day 1 Captain Burgoyne prepared the Kentish men for battle with a team talk about being tougher than our opponents, not just better. A change in line up saw Thornley/Sargeant, Summers/Davis and Brookes/Markiewicz against Essex. Round one put us 2-1 up with Essex's best pair on fire and maybe looking at winning 15. Round 2 was a classic Kent performance with fight and belief; not only did we go 4-2 up but Summers and Davis beat Essex's best pair. Round three was so tight, but late in the evening the men of Kent rose to the occasion. Summers/Davis saved match points and won in a third set tie-breaker, while Sean and Francis also completed a three set win. 6-3 Kent.

Day 3 vs Suffolk

In the past this has been a banana skin fixture for Kent and even sometimes a very heated affair. We were cautiously optimistic as we looked strong and the temperature rose in Eastbourne. Another 2-1 lead for Kent after round 1 but matches were tight, and nothing was coming easy. Round 2 saw an eruption of energy from Nick Brookes,



who with James Markiewicz caught fire to win from a set behind and set the tone for the day - Kent would not be moved. A 7-2 win for Kent and the title was in sight.

Day 4 vs Middlesex

With our opposition playing to stave off relegation this was always going to be a tough day, but with temperatures in the high 30s it was to be both a physical and mental test for all. Round 1 was close on all courts, but Thornley/Sargeant were in the groove and as were Summers/Davis, so although it was close, we edged 2-0 up. Meanwhile Burton/Brookes played an incredible match where they never lost serve or faced a break point. Somehow, they were beaten in a third set tie break. Round 2 saw Searle in for Brookes and through the hottest part of the day the battles went on and at 4.15 the rain came down with Kent 4-1 up and Searle/Burton a set down but fighting. Day 4 was over, and we would resume on Friday.

Day 5 still v Middlesex

The rains came down and the grass was unfit. We were moved to play on some horrific astro courts. Through rain and wind the players battled and by lunchtime we had a 7-2 win in our pocket and the title was nearly ours.

Day 5 v South Wales

With our opposition already relegated it was a formality for Kent as we romped to a 6-0 win and again the trophy was in our hands!

Summary

There were so many highlights, such as the return of Francis Sargeant, who flew in just for the week and won 14/15 matches, Summers and Davis winning 14/15. As a team we were a colossus, supporting each other, shouting for each other, winning and losing together in the spirit of Kent which is a culture admired by other teams. I am so proud to captain this team to what is my 6th title as Player/Captain. My thanks must go to my outgoing Vice-Captain Rob Searle who leaves for Australia. Without him I don't believe I would have even 3 titles; he will be missed both as a player and as a leader. My new Vice-Captain is Alastair Filmer who brings both energy and experience to the role, being a great coach and player for many years.

Lastly to the supporters who travel down every year, thank you so much and look forward to seeing you next year as we try and defend the title.

County Teams

Ladies County Cup - Remain in Division 2

Date: 22nd to 26th July 2019

Venue: Manchester LTC

Captain: Holly Richards

Vice-Captain: Jacqueline Darby

Players: Holly Richards, Jacqueline Darby, Sofia Johnson, Sophia Thomas, Nell Miller, Abby Taylor, Phoebe Watton, Florence Abbott, Olivia Parson, Tiegan Aitken.

Results: Lost to Leicestershire 5-4, Beat Cheshire 5-4, Beat Lancashire 5-4, Lost to Hampshire & IOW 8-1, Beat Norfolk 5-4



Heading to Manchester LTC as a new venue for County Cup and a fairly young team, we were looking forward to the week ahead.

First up for us on day 1 was Leicestershire, promoted to Division 2 from 3 last year. A tough start to the day and a few players feeling rusty which saw us narrowly miss out on a win, resulting in a 4-5 loss.

Day 2 against Cheshire and we changed our team around slightly, keen for a better start than Monday. Another extremely tough day against a county which we had lost to in previous years, but we managed to clinch a 5-4 win with a few very close three setters.

Day 3 saw us facing a very strong Lancashire team with a national champion and very experienced doubles players. In scorching hot weather the girls got off to a great start. Learning from the first day we knew to take nothing for granted and kept the lead to end the day 5-4 to Kent. It was a super tough day and this result proved important for the finishing positions.

Day 4 was looking tough against Hampshire & IOW; we lost a few players due to tournament commitments and took a very quick loss 8-1. There were some tight matches in 33° heat and we battled as best we could but it wasn't to be.

All to play for on day 5 as we needed a win to definitely remain in Division 2, a result which at the beginning of the week we would have been pleased with. No easy matches this week and we beat Norfolk 5-4 to stay in Division 2 and came very close to heading back up to Division 1!

There was incredible team spirit from all the girls and with this level of commitment and teamwork I hope next year we can make the jump back to Division 1.

Juniors

Road to Wimbledon

Date: 13 & 14 July 2019

Venue: Bromley Tennis Centre

Girls result: Chloe Chea beat Madeleine Nikki De Sousa, 4-0 5-3

Boys result: Kai Van-Roon Collins beat Felix Dear, 4-2, 5-4(4)



The Road to Wimbledon is the largest junior grass court tournament in British tennis and gives 14U players the opportunity to progress through to compete on the world-famous grass courts at Wimbledon. Local clubs, parks and schools are encouraged to enter and stage a tournament for their members or pupils rated between 10.2 and 7.1, and winners of these events then progress to their County Finals.

The County Final winners were invited to the National Finals at Wimbledon in August. For stronger rated players (6.2 or higher) there is the Road to Wimbledon International event which players can enter directly and Kent's success is reported on in the Junior Results Round Up.



Juniors

Player Highlights

The summer season has been busy! Our top older juniors, Emma Radacanu, Anton Matusевич, Sasha Hill and Jack Pinnington-Jones have all had a challenging time combining tennis with exams. After supporting Team GB at the Fed Cup in April, Emma let tennis take a back seat for a while, although we did see her looking good in both qualifying for Wimbledon and in Junior Wimbledon. She was awarded LTA Girl Player of the Year Award. Anton and Jack, both also played Junior Wimbledon. Anton has been focusing on the pro circuit, making it to the semis of both a Mens 15K and a 25K event this summer. Meanwhile, Jack is closing in on a world junior top 100 ranking. The highlight of his season may have been playing the eventual Junior Wimbledon winner in the final of the Grade 1 ITF on the grass in Nottingham or playing for GB in the 16U European Cup. We are saying a temporary farewell to Sasha, who represented GB in Klosters this summer, but is now continuing her tennis career at university in Florida.

In addition to Sasha and Jack, Sofia Johnson, Hugo Coquelin, Lois Newberry and Ben Gusic-Wan have all represented Great Britain in European competitions over the summer months. Hugo and Ben have been busy on the Tennis Europe Circuit too. Hugo was runner-up in a very close match in the final of the Bright Cup 14U boys in Romania while Ben won the 12U singles title at the Cat1 in Rakovnik, Czech Republic, and was runner up in the 12U Passage d'Agen in France.

Closer to home, our players have had great success in national tournaments. The main domestic junior event of the year is the National Championships in August. These are held in Nottingham for 14U-18U age groups and in Bournemouth at the West Hants Club for 10U and 12U. Ben Gusic-Wan took the 12U title in a hard-fought final against fellow Kent player, Pranav Devaguptapu. Together they won the 12U national doubles title. Also, representing Kent at the National Championships were Alex De Sousa, Oliver Richards, Sofia Johnson, Matthew Pickering, Hugo Coquelin, Lois and Eloise Newberry, Michael Nkereuwen, Tommy Cuomo, Nathaniel De Mariveles and Nikita Phillips.

There are also Grade 2 national tournaments held in the summer season – at Sutton and Nottingham at Easter, at Halton/Gosling in May and in Bath in July. Lois Newberry got her summer season off to a cracking start by taking the 12U girls title at Sutton. Ben Gusic-Wan took the 12U boys titles at both Sutton and Nottingham, and Pranav Devaguptapu took the 12U boys title at Halton. Sofia Johnson took the 18U girls title in Bath. One to watch for the future is Nikita Phillips who took the 10U girls Grade 2 title at Loughborough. The other big Grade 2 event which happens in the summer months is the International Road to Wimbledon 14U event held on the grass at the All England Club including top juniors from Hong Kong, Japan and India. We had two qualifiers for the event this year – Skye Bentum-Siripi and Angus Howard.

Finally, we have a number of players who are leaving us for tennis scholarships at universities in the USA – Harvey Conway, William Everett, Michael Owen, Sasha Hill, Phoebe Watton and Abby Taylor. Good to luck to you all.

Lois Newberry



When Lois broke her hand in a freak accident in November 2018, she was devastated. She had set her sights on the GB 12U squad and knew good results over the winter were needed.

The days after the accident were very tough as the consequences sunk in. However, with the fantastic team around her led by Matt Smith at Bromley Tennis Centre, she resumed light training after a few days, albeit with her hard cast still on.

After four weeks the cast came off. Lois recalls her first match back against a very hard hitter, feeling nervous that the bones would break again. "I kept slicing on the backhand which at least improved that shot!".

Lois went on to win the Sutton Grade 2 and made the final of the Notts Grade 2 a few days later. Lois was delighted to then be invited to the next GB training squad, especially as it was in La Manga. "I was so pleased to be called up and was determined to use the trip to improve my game.....and my tan!"

Impressing in La Manga, Lois was selected to represent GB in a seven nation tournament in Hatfield and following that, the Lampo Trophy eight nation tournament in Italy and the Summer Cup in Corsica via qualifying rounds in the Netherlands. The girls GB team did incredibly well finishing runners up to Bulgaria in Italy and taking bronze in the Summer Cup.

The summer turned in to an incredible adventure for Lois. "Being part of the GB team was one of my dreams come true. To be amongst the very best players in Europe including GB's own Hepzibah and Mimi, was a great experience and one I shall never forget. I was even asked to read the players oath at the opening ceremony in Corsica!" The experience has taught Lois how important it is to remain positive when setbacks occur and that with determination and hard work, things will improve. Also, to enjoy the moments when the sun does shine!

Juniors

Coaching Tips

Your child plays in mini-tennis and you've just been told that he or she has potential. What advice do you need? We asked some of Kent's top performance coaches to help...

Please remember results at under 10 will have zero impact on how successful your son or daughter will be at 15/16 years old. So, please make sure they are enjoying the journey as it is a long one!

Rob Smith - Kent 12U - 18U County Performance Manager, former coach to Dom Inglot (ATP Doubles #21 and Davis Cup Player) and parent of 2 mini red players.

Keep it fun, don't lose sight of why you took your child to the club in the first place; sport is great for their health and character. For a young performance player, the journey is a marathon not a sprint. Focus every day on the process and don't get caught up with results.

Craig Allen, former Kent Boys 14U Team Captain and coach at The Parklangley Club, now LTA County Pathway Coordinator for the East Region.

If you believe in your coach, be advised by them rather than listen to other coaches or other parents.

Steve Jarrett, former Kent 18U Captain, Owner and Manager of Jarrett Tennis School, Tunbridge Wells

Every mini tennis playing youngster has potential. The important things at this age are: first, that the youngsters love the game, want to practise and compete and understand that competition is about learning and fun - not winning; second, that they are being taught properly. Do not be afraid to ask questions, challenge coaches, research your child's development, get involved and build a strong, trusting relationship with your coaches.

Matt Smith, Head of Performance at Bromley Tennis Centre.

Players, every time you step on the court give 100%. Hard work always beats talent, when talent doesn't work hard. Parents, be pleased when a coach progresses your child slowly and thoroughly. Rushing the process can limit learning and ruin retention.

Martin Whitehouse, Kent Captain Kent U12 Girls, Head Coach, Sevenoaks Tennis Centre

Don't rush. Work with a team of people who you trust implicitly. There are no guarantees in tennis and sometimes, for reasons which are out of everyone's control, the outcome of the journey is not always what you imagined. The tennis journey can contribute towards someone's personal growth immensely. Keep a firm eye on many things - responsibility, ownership, dedication, discipline, problem solving, communication and gratitude. You'll have a very rounded person in the end who will no doubt be successful in whatever they do and, if it is tennis, then they'll have all the tools to excel.

Harry Bushnell, Kent 11U County Performance Manager, Head of Performance at The Parklangley Club.

Tennis Leaders Day

20 Junior Tennis Leaders came together at Bromley Tennis Centre in July to practise their skills and learn some more. The 13-18 year olds were from Horsmonden, Sundridge Park, Wickham Park and Chipstead Tennis Clubs, and were led through various activities by Luke House, a coach from Shooters Hill and LTA Coach Education Tutor. They practised verbal and non-verbal communication skills through tennis versions of charades and articulate, practised organising activities combining good communication with demonstrations. They shared good practice in being a scorer for red matches, learning how to deal with the challenges they face when players get upset, or don't understand how to play points. After all the practical sessions, they talked about the career opportunities available in tennis, not only the coaching pathway but also the wider range of opportunities in development, the media, publicity, sports agencies and much more.

The workshop was part of an initiative from the Kent Coaches Network led by Luke and Neil Biddle. Luke is planning more leader workshops with the next one scheduled for 1 December at Bromley Tennis Centre. It will hopefully include sessions with recent winners of the Kent Leader of the Year Award, with new County Coach Rob Smith, and training on how to assist coaching sessions for players with disabilities.

For more information or to subscribe to receive communications for Tennis Leaders send an email to Janice.white@kenttennis.org.uk



Juniors

Sadie Bristow Foundation Event at Queen's



The prestigious Queen's Club in London was host to the Sadie Bristow Foundation event on 8 August 2019.

Clubs and schools across the UK which had organised a Sadie Bristow fundraising tournament were invited to send young players to represent them in the event. Organised by Graham Silvester, the orange and green mixed competitions had 20 players from Kent clubs (Bromley Tennis Centre, Margate, Bethersden, Oakwood, Bridge, Sevenoaks and The Parklangley Club) and from clubs in Corby, Dorset and Winchester. Schools involved in the Foundation programme were represented by Bridge and Chartham Primary schools.

The weather was amazing with tournament matches on three outdoor courts overlooking the main Queen's arena of grass courts, a Wilson zone on a fourth court with racket testing, fun games, spectator seating and an information desk. Two indoor courts played host to fun games and competitions with prizes (donated by Wilson) for everyone, from racket dampers to wristbands, t-shirts and racket bags. Parents and family members thoroughly enjoyed guided tours of the club.

The orange winners were Joshua Church and Anastasia Nahornaya and the green winners were Matthew Mclain and Maisie Seedel. They were presented with their trophies by the Queen's Club Chief Executive, Ross Niland.

The Foundation would like to thank all those involved on the day for the outstanding event and to all clubs and schools that took part in fundraising days leading up to the event. The day at Queen's was inspirational and there will be an opportunity for clubs and schools to run a fundraising tournament before July 2020 to select players to attend next year's event at the Queen's Club.

Funds raised for The Sadie Bristow Foundation will go towards extending the Schools Tennis Programme and to train nurses to visit schools across Kent to deliver workshops and clinics to increase allergy awareness.

For more information about organising and holding a fundraising event or just getting involved, please contact clare@sadiebristowfoundation.org.uk

Schools

Focus on Deal Parochial

Deal Parochial CE Primary School has an objective to give every one of its pupils the opportunity to live up to the school motto of 'Being the best I can be'. The school's recent recognition at the 2018 LTA Tennis Awards reflects the level of success achieved in meeting this objective. The School recognises the many long-term benefits that exposure to sport can bring to its pupils, including healthy living, self-confidence, inclusivity, teamwork and improved concentration skills.



Taking inspiration from a school visit to the Davis Cup Trophy Tour in Summer 2016, Deal Parochial decided to start a tennis programme at the Deal Indoor Tennis Centre (Deal ITC) in September of that year. The school added tennis to its PE Curriculum for years 1-6 and started an after-school club. Through its strong links with Deal ITC, the school benefitted from expert coaching allowing tennis to be accessible across the school's demographic which includes disability players.

At Deal ITC, pupils of all abilities can participate in weekly tennis sessions making use of the excellent all year round facility with fully inclusive tennis delivered by accredited coaches, in a positive structured environment, ensuring their first experience of tennis is a positive one.

At the school there are other initiatives to further extend the tennis programme to accommodate players of all abilities and make tennis accessible for everyone. These include on-site daily supervised lunchtime tennis activities, extra sessions for children with additional needs, and before-school tennis sessions for girls.

During 2018, over 100 pupils played extracurricular tennis regularly. Outstanding achievement, improvement, commitment and sportsmanship were embraced with 14 tennis awards honouring players from Reception to Year 5. Players with cerebral palsy and visual impairment were deservedly among tennis award winners and, together with a hearing impaired player, represented the school at external mainstream tournaments.

In April this year, Deal Parochial, as the Kent Award winner, was nominated for the Education category to the LTA's Regional Tennis Awards for London and the South East and duly won the Award. Shortly afterwards they were shortlisted as one of three LTA National Awards finalists in the Education category.

Mrs Hodgson (Sports Coach and Play Leader) and Mr Alltoft (Parent Governor) represented Deal Parochial at the LTA's National Tennis Awards Final at Wimbledon in July. Whilst Deal Parochial did not win nationally, the school received recognition of the wonderful achievement of being a National Finalist.

Understandably Deal Parochial is not only very proud that the school's dedication and commitment to providing inclusive tennis activities has been recognised, but also that the school and its pupils are living up to its motto.

Schools

Primary Schools Competitions



Team Competitions

Red Event

On 15 May teams from primary schools across the county played in the Kent Primary Schools red team event at the Bromley Tennis Centre. It was run by Harri Izzard, supported by Vanessa Webb, Kent Tennis President, who also did the presentation to the winners. Children had fun representing their schools and, with the teachers support, the event was once again a huge success.

The winning girls' team was from Lady Boswell School, with Amherst second. Both from Sevenoaks. The winning boys' team was Bickley Park, Bromley and Deal Parochial was second.

Orange and Green Events

Kent primary schools took part in the annual orange and green tournaments held over two days at the Bromley Tennis Centre. Teams are made up of 4 players.

The girls' events took place on Wednesday 22 May.

The orange event had 8 teams of 4 players from 6 schools and the winning teams were Granville 1 and Walthamstow Hall.

The green event had 7 teams of 4 players from 6 schools and the winning teams were Granville and Amherst.

Mary Evans, Kent LTA Councillor for Schools Tennis, presented the medals.

On Friday 24 May it was the turn of the boys.

The orange boys team event had 15 teams of 4 players, entered from 9 schools and the winning teams were St James 1 and Bickley Park

The green boys team event had 10 Teams of 4 players entered from 9 schools and the winning teams were Russell House and Amherst.

Medals were presented by Vanessa Webb, Kent LTA President, to the winners on the day.

Annual Doubles

The West Kent Schools Doubles qualifying event took place on Wednesday 12 June at Bromley Tennis Centre. 15 schools competed, with 114 teams across boys and girls in red (Year 4 and below), orange (Year 5 and below) and green (Year 6 and below) events.

The East Kent Schools Doubles qualifying event was on Thursday 13 June at Canterbury LTC. 6 schools took part, with 42 teams across boys and girls red, orange and green events.

The finals took place on Friday 21st June at Bromley Tennis Centre. 18 schools took part with 32 teams of boys and 32 teams of girls across red, orange, green and yellow (Year 6 and below). The results from the finals on 21st June:

8U Boys *(Photo - Top Right)*

1. Sevenoaks Primary
2. New Beacon 2



9U Boys

1. Eltham College
2. St James

10U Boys *(Photo - Right)*

1. Russell House
2. St James 2



Tennis Boys

1. Amherst 2
2. Amherst 1

8U Girls *(Photo - Right)*

1. Amherst
2. Granville 1



9U Girls

1. Walthamstow Hall
2. Granville 1

10U Girls *(Photo - Bottom Right)*

1. St James 1
2. Amherst



Tennis Girls

1. Granville 1
2. Amherst 2

Schools

Secondary School Competitions



Inter Schools Doubles Finals

The finals were held at the Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club on Friday 28 June 2019. Organised by Pat Braam, the competition again attracted a strong entry from 22 secondary schools, in three age groups (junior, intermediate and senior) for boys and girls. 76 teams played, involving 304 students, slightly up on last year, but Kent Tennis is still keen to get more schools involved. All the schools did very well to complete their matches in time for finals day.

The finals day was blessed with lovely weather. Seven schools were involved, with Sevenoaks School enjoying their best year, winning five of the events. The most competitive match was the Senior Girls final between Benenden and King's Canterbury which had to be decided on games.

In the girls events, Benenden, Kings Canterbury, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar School (TWGGS), reached the finals:

Senior Girls Final	Benenden beat King's Canterbury
Inter Girls Final	Sevenoaks beat Benenden
Junior Girls Final	Sevenoaks beat TWGGS

In the boys events, Norton Knatchbull, Sevenoaks, Kent College Canterbury and Sir Roger Manwood's reached the finals:

Senior Boys Final	Sevenoaks beat Norton Knatchbull
Inter Boys Final	Sevenoaks beat Sir Roger Manwood's
Junior Boys Final	Sevenoaks beat Kent College Canterbury

Vanessa Webb, Kent LTA President, presented the trophies to the finalists.



Team Tennis

Results from Team Tennis Schools Division 2 Finals (run under the Kent School Games). The winners in each age group go on to represent Kent at the Division 2 Regional Finals against the other 3 counties in September.

Boys – Yrs. 9&10 – Monday 24th June

1. Colfes
2. Norton Knatchbull B

Boys – Yrs. 7&8 – Monday 24th June

1. Queen Elizabeths
2. Kent College Canterbury

Girls – Yrs 9&10 – Tuesday 25th June

1. Highworth
2. Newstead Wood School B

Competitions

Parklangley Junior Spring Tournament

Dates: 27th May to 1st June 2019 **Venue:** The Parklangley Club, Beckenham



Harry Bushnell & Susan Finch

We were all struggling to remember how long this tournament has been running but we think we are into our 29th year and continue to go from strength to strength. The event in 2018 had been a good one but this year we were determined to make it even better.

We have worked hard at Parklangley to nurture our own tournament staff and this was evident from the strength in depth of staff we had working. We had four 'home grown' court supervisors who came through the course we put on in late 2017, three of whom have since gone on to successfully pass their referee's course. Our Head of Performance Harry Bushnell and his team of senior performance coaches also assisted, having had court supervisor training from Chris Mann prior to the event.

We were delighted to receive 453 entries this year in 25 events. This didn't even include the 20 players who took part in our first Learning Disability event which we felt was an important addition to our schedule for this year. It was truly humbling to see the players have such a great time and to be so grateful to be involved. It was the highlight of the week for sure. A big thank you to Jim Barton who held our hands through the planning and execution!

We managed 600 matches over the week, 9,811 games and over 20,000 minutes of play. Not quite sure how we squeezed all that in. We were fairly lucky with the weather this year, with just one afternoon's play disrupted. Our Finals Day was glorious however and the sun shone brightly from start to finish. Congratulations to all the players who competed. It was a great week with a good atmosphere and very few issues; it was lovely to see lots of familiar faces and we hope to see you all again next time.

As always, we thank our members for their patience, and to Kent LTA and the LTA for their support. We look forward to an even better event in 2020.

jdm Estate Agents Bromley Tennis Centre Open

Date: 29th to 3rd August 2019

Venue: Bromley Tennis Centre, Orpington



(Clockwise from Left)

Pranav Devanguptapu, Jeremy DeMaid (jdm Estate Agents), Tomas Paskauskas, Matthew Pickering, Ulrich Neinaber, Angus Howard, Timothy Viding, Daisy Rowland, Thalia Remice & Adrian Leung.

Bromley Tennis Centre was pleased to host the jdm Grade 3 Open event for the first time this year. This ever-popular event heralds the start of the summer week-long Grade 3 event season.

Different venue, same team: Graham Silvester as Referee, Jo and Megan Robinson and Court Supervisors, Charlie, Carolina, Dee and Leo, all watched over and managed some terrific tennis. The whole event went off very well, save one day that was rain interrupted, with winners coming from all over the south east.

Teo Hadjinikolov from Middlesex won the 12U Boys, while Katie Chen, Ben Feltham, both from Hertfordshire won the 10U Girls and Men's Open respectively. The remaining 13 events were won by Kent players. Nathan Wang, Alex Mirrington, Judy Zhang, and Herbie Smith all from BTC triumphed in the mini tennis events, whilst winners from the yellow ball events came from all over the county.

It was admirable to see many well-fought matches played in great competitive spirit. With so many fantastic games it is very difficult to single out any one match, but the 12U Girls final was played over 2 hours with Daisy Rowland beating Chloe Cleaver in 2 sets, 6-4, 6-2.

The event's sponsor, Jeremy DeMaid of jdm Estate Agents, saw some captivating games on more than one occasion and thoroughly enjoyed the matches being played. We thank them for their support.

Competitions

Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club Summer Grade 3

Dates: 12th to 17th August 2019

Venue: Tunbridge Wells LTC



Nina Sherwen & Elena Holland



*Nathan Williams-Allen & Rayyan Saggars,
Pranav Devaguptapu & Martino Colabella*

Although the title of this event might suggest fine warm sunny weather, almost the opposite was true this year. Rain persisted on the first day of the tournament and 15 matches had to be held over until Wednesday, when the weather proved to be even worse. Only about a dozen matches were completed on the third day of the tournament with some taking place at the local indoor centre. A few were played on the club's clay courts (before they flooded due to the persistent watering), with competitors almost oblivious to the constant rain and the supervisors observing the matches sheltering under umbrellas. However, with some consolation matches cancelled and the format of the doubles shortened, the club was able to run a full day's finals on Saturday, completing every event.

Always a popular match with spectators is the Men's Singles, this year contested by 17 year old Sam Nicholson from Hove, and Essex's Kane Bolton. Sam showed a level of play far beyond his years winning comfortably 6-1, 6-3. He then went on to win the Boys 18U singles against Olly Richards 6-1, 6-0.

The Ladies Singles was a closer match, with Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale beating Evelyn Kilsby 6-3, 6-3. Unfortunately, Evelyn lost again in the Girls 18U Singles when she took on Phoebe Watton. The match flowed back and forth with some very well constructed and exciting rallies, but it was Phoebe who held her nerve and ran out the winner at 7-5, 6-4.

There were too many finals to comment on but worthy of mention was the efforts of Alex Fox who played in three finals and won them all. He partnered Tommy Cartledge in the Men's Doubles and had a seemingly easy win 6-2, 6-1 over the hard-hitting Sam Nicholson and Scott Robinson. He then partnered Scott in the Boy's 18U Doubles and received a walkover versus Olly Richards and Oscar Brown, as Oscar had been stung in the eye by a bee and was unable to play. Alex then partnered Gemma Poland to win the 18U Mixed Doubles beating Matthew and Helen Coomber into second in a round robin format.

It is a credit to the Referee, Jason Baker, that the tournament finished on time and its success is thanks to him and all the helpers. Thanks also to our sponsors Eastbourne College for their continued support, and to Simon Gent from the College for presenting the awards.

Medway Summer Festival

Dates: 17th to 23rd August 2019

Venue: Frindsbury LTC



Frindsbury LTC and Jimmy's Tennis held the Medway Summer Festival on 17 – 23 August. It started with a local Woodlands Cup Team event, recognising the contribution that John Denny has made to Medway tennis over the last 70 years. The Cup was won by Frindsbury's 1st team.

This was followed by a full range of red, orange, green and yellow ball singles and doubles events with 138 players from all over Kent and beyond; some on holiday or family visits to Kent and fitting in a tennis tournament as well. In addition, 24 players took part in a Learning Disability (LD) event playing some fun doubles and singles and receiving lovely certificates.

Jim was the lead referee with a team of helpers and court supervisors. Players enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere of the tournament and the range of off-court activities. The highlight of each day was a space hopper race pitting the kids against the referees, always won by the kids because the referees kept falling off!

It was the first time for this week-long event. All the players had a great time and nine parents even made the effort to send thank you letters, which was much appreciated.



Competitions

Kent County Championships

Dates: 25th August to 1st September 2019 **Venue:** Bromley Tennis Centre



Another great week of County Championships and another new t-shirt to add to the collection for the 393 individual players who entered this year's championship held at Bromley Tennis Centre during the last week of August. There were 571 entries in singles and doubles in age groups ranging from 8U to open men's and ladies.

1900 sets of tennis were played during the full eight days with hard-fought qualifying rounds for the younger age groups in the first few days, men's and ladies events in the evenings, and the youngest age group 8U on the Friday. Social media was buzzing all week showing exceptional rallies, sibling rivalry, funny moments, trophy presentations and interviews with players and supporters.

The finals on Sunday duly entertained the crowd of spectators with some exciting and sensational matches. Oscar Brown and Daisy Carpenter were crowned Junior 18U Champions. Both have won titles at younger age groups in the past and Daisy has in fact won nine titles. Referees Chris Mann and Jason Baker were given some minor scheduling headaches by players in more than one final. Sky Bentum-Siripi was in four finals, and Niamh Egan, Eloise Newberry, Oliver Richards and Sophia Thomas were in three finals each.

The Bromley Tennis Centre staff and the Kent Tennis office team worked together to make spectators as happy as possible organising volunteers for meeting and greeting, the usual off-court activities of car park mini tennis and table tennis and a new idea for 2019, the 'Daily Give Away'. This gave rise to young players crowding round the Kent Desk at a designated time, eager to answer a tennis trivia question and win a prize. There were different prizes each day - cupcakes, novelty sunglasses, snapbands and lots more.

During the week, tennis centre staff served up 180 paninis and 500 coffees; stringers restrung 160 rackets; and 1080 tennis balls were used.

On Saturday, 25 players of all ages including mums and dads enjoyed a charity red tennis festival. Organised by volunteers from Kent Tennis, Bromley Tennis Centre and the Sadie Bristow Foundation, the charity event raised £250 for the Foundation and great fun was had by all.

The Finals Day presentation included the highlights of successful Kent teams and players and the announcement that the Kent 9U team are winners of the Kent Junior Team of the Year Award. Junior player colours were also awarded. Those who made the event possible were thanked, largely the Kent Tennis volunteers and office team, the staff of Bromley Tennis Centre, and the tournament team of Graham Silvester, Chris Mann and Jason Baker. Great job by everyone.

Kent County Championships - Winners

Event	Winner	Runner Up
8 & Under Boys Singles	Drew BAKER	Jamie MONTGOMERY
8 & Under Girls Singles	Judy ZHANG	Olivia WALKER
9 & Under Boys Singles	Alex MIRRORINGTON	Drew BAKER
9 & Under Girls Singles	Ruby MARRIAGE	Imogen SMITH
10 & Under Boys Singles	Matthew MCLAIN	Herbie SMITH
10 & Under Girls Singles	Charlotte SPRATLING	Ashleigh HANNAH
12 & Under Boys Singles	Pranav DEVAGUPTAPU	Conor BRADY
12 & Under Girls Singles	Eloise NEWBERRY	Daisy ROWLAND
14 & Under Boys Singles	Matthew PICKERING	Pranav DEVAGUPTAPU
14 & Under Girls Singles	Lois NEWBERRY	Daisy ROWLAND
14 & Under Boys Doubles	Rory MARLES & Ulrich NIENABER	Alexis CHASTANG & Benjamin GUSIC-WAN
14 & Under Girls Doubles	Eloise NEWBERRY & Lois NEWBERRY	Rebecca FISHER & Lauren FOSTER
14 & Under Mixed Doubles	Martino COLABELLA & Emily BOLTON	Jake WILSON & Eloise NEWBERRY
16 & Under Boys Singles	Matthew PICKERING	Ethan GRANT
16 & Under Girls Singles	Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI	Niamh EGAN
18 & Under Boys Singles	Oscar BROWN	Oliver RICHARDS
18 & Under Girls Singles	Daisy CARPENTER	Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI
18 & Under Boys Doubles	Alexander DE SOUSA & Oliver RICHARDS	Tommy HARRISON & Archie TURNER
18 & Under Girls Doubles	Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI & Niamh EGAN	Amelia MONTEITH & Lucy MORICE-JONES
18 & Under Mixed Doubles	Tommy HARRISON & Niamh EGAN	Benjamin GUSIC-WAN & Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI
Men's Open Singles	Oliver RICHARDS	Alexander DE SOUSA
Women's Open Singles	Sophia THOMAS	Amelia MONTEITH
Men's Open Doubles	Ravi SALH & Tim SCHOENERT	Maksim BALAS & Michael SULEAU
Women's Open Doubles	Emma SAWKINGS & Sophia THOMAS	Tabitha HOWE & Georgia LANCASTER
Mixed Open Doubles	Alex JUNIPER & Sophia THOMAS	Henry WHITE & Anna CHWIEJCAK

Competitions

The Championships T-Shirt



Every year since 2009 all players at the Kent County Closed Championships have received a T-shirt on the first day when they sign-in for the competition. Originally modelled on the Wimbledon Championships t-shirt of that year, the T-shirts have become a huge success and are a much prized item in any Kent players tennis memorabilia collection.

Previous players, coaches and parents have even been known to steal into the referee's office during the tournament in the hope of snaffling one for themselves! The T-shirts are a different colour each year and so there is speculation amongst the juniors in the run up to the tournament about what colour it will be.

It's a closely guarded secret, with only the tournament organiser and a few select individuals within Kent Tennis knowing the answer to that one before the big day.

This year, Kent LTA asked a number of players how many T-shirts they still had and it transpired that 16 year old Harry Schofield of Bromley Lawn has almost a full collection and mum, Tracey, provided this beautiful picture of them all. The only way to get one is to compete at the County Championships – which is open to everyone in Kent, of all ages – so we look forward to seeing you all in your T-shirts next year.

Leagues

Kent TENNiSYS Inter-Club Leagues

Kent Tennis inter-club leagues are a really important part of the tennis life in many clubs, involving many people of all ages and a range of abilities around the county. In this section, we want to share two stories about achievement in the leagues. If you or your club have any stories of interest or success you would like to send us, please get in touch with clare.lilley@kenttennis.org.uk.

For full results from summer 2019, please visit www.lta.tournamentsoftware.com and search for Kent TENNiSYS inter club league summer 2019. We will be reporting all the winners of the leagues in our next Annual Report, and the shields for Winter 2018-19 and Summer 2019 winners will be presented at our AGM on 2 December 2019.

Canterbury Men Make History

For the first time in the history of the Kent inter-club leagues, which began in 1890 with the start of the Kent Lawn Tennis Association, Canterbury Men are Kent's Summer Champions.

By beating Bexley 3-1 at Polo Farm on 7 September, Canterbury added the Summer title to the Winter one, which they'd won twice before, beating Bromley Wendover this spring.



Trottscliffe Ladies 500 Not Out!

Last December Tricia Wallis and Audrey Goodworth from Trottscliffe Tennis Club reached a milestone, celebrating their 500th match (rubber) together.

Tricia and Audrey were both founder members of the club in 1994 and their first match together was on 5 July 1996 at Beckenham. Their winning partnership seems to have worked well with Tricia playing on the Ad (backhand) side and Audrey on the Deuce (forehand) side. Tricia with her great reading of the game and badminton skills has been the main net player with Audrey keeping the ball in play from the back of the court.



After starting from the bottom in the Kent Leagues the Trottscliffe Ladies 1st team climbed to Division 3 where they stayed for many years, but due to injury when Tricia had to take time out for shoulder and hip surgery, the team faced relegation. However, after a couple of seasons out the partnership is now back together again and has helped the team climb back up with promotion in the 2018/19 Winter season to Division 4 and this summer once again reinstating themselves back in Division 3. At the time of this article being written the pairing have now reached 532 matches with 490 wins - a 92% winning percentage.

Seniors

Events Roundup



Kent Mens 50s Team



Jasper Cooper

British Open Clay Court Seniors Championships in Bournemouth in May:

Singles victories for Hazel Lindfield in the 60s Ladies Singles event and for Anne Williams in the Ladies Singles 85s event. There were also plenty of doubles titles too; Niall Sweeney in the Men's 65's with his partner Andrew Stanley, Hazel Lindfield in the 60's with partner Kim Reed, and for Marcia Ackers in the Ladies 80s doubles with partner, June Pearce. There were two runners-up: Bob Milner in the 80s Men's Singles and Zane Cheeseman in the 35s Men's Doubles.

British Open Grass Court Championships at Eastbourne in August:

Jasper Cooper won the Men's 65s Doubles, Peter Pharo won the Men's 70s Doubles, Hazel Lindfield won the Ladies 60s Doubles.

There were three Singles runners-up: Jasper Cooper in the Mens 65's, Hazel Lindfield in the Ladies 60s and Myra Hunter in the Ladies 65s.

British Seniors Closed Grass Court Championships at Wimbledon in August:

Bob Milner won the Men's 80s singles and Marcia again won the Ladies 80s doubles with June Pearce. We had four runners-up; Zane Cheeseman in the 35s Men's Singles, Jasper Cooper in the 65s Men's Singles, Hazel Lindfield in the 60s Ladies Singles, and Hazel with partner Sally Holmes in the 60s Ladies Doubles.

Grade 1 Polish International Championship in Sopot in July:

Jasper Cooper won the 65s Men's Singles, taking him to 18th ranking in the world, in his age group.

Seniors

Alice Marble Cup



Hazel Lindfield, (Left) was part of the GB Ladies 60s Bronze winning team

Hazel writes, "In August, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) Seniors (50-55-60) World Team Tennis Championships took place in Lisbon, Portugal. I was lucky enough to be selected to play in the GB Women's 60 team. Seventeen teams had entered; GB was seeded 4th, drawn in a group with Turkey, Finland and South Africa. We had four players in our team to cover two singles and one doubles match against each country.

Our first match was against Turkey. It was a confidence-boosting start, as we wrapped up a comfortable 3-0 win. I was then asked to play singles against Finland - nervous to begin with, I managed a straight-sets victory in my first live-rubber match for team GB. The rest of the team also won, giving us our second 3-0 win. South Africa, the No 6 seeds, presented a more formidable opposition. We had a tight start but a 3-0 win also made us group winners. This put us into the semi-final without losing a match, though our next opponents were the USA, the top seeds who had the current top-three ranked players in their team! We enjoyed close matches but lost 3-0.

We were into the 3rd/4th play off against Australia, last year's World Champions. Unluckily, the team picked up injuries which meant that I now had the responsibility of playing the No 2 singles. I had a game plan and felt confident. The match started well and I was 6-3, 4-1 up when the heavens opened. I knew I had really tired my opponent, so I hoped the 2 hour rain delay wouldn't help her. I carried on where I had left off wrapping up the match without losing another game. I was ecstatic, especially as I'd given the team a winning start. More injuries in our team meant that it came down to the deciding doubles and, with no other fit players, it was left to my partner and I to play our first live doubles together. After losing the first set, we slowly began to get on top and went on to win the match in three sets.

We might not have won the tournament, but we'd beaten the Aussies and the bronze medal was ours. The medal ceremony was held on centre court. Following the announcement "Bronze medalists Great Britain" we walked down the steps to the sunken court as our names were read out. I felt so proud. We took our places on the rostrum alongside winners USA and 2nd place France. It's a moment I'll never forget."

Seniors

People



Victor Simms



Denis Costelloe

90 Not Out

I guess every tennis club in Kent has a player who seems to go on and on forever. This person is a very valuable source of information if one wants to write about, or delve into, a club's history.

However, in this instance, we are focusing on someone who is still not only playing tennis, but also captaining a team at the ripe old age of ninety years of age. I refer to Victor Simms, captain of the Sundridge Park Men's 70s team, who first joined the club back in 1985 with wife Betty. Victor has been captaining one team or another down the years at Sundridge Park and competed in this summer's Over 85s National Singles Championship at Wimbledon. He would love to have played in the Doubles as well but could not find a partner. 'Any takers for next year's event?', he asks.

Congratulations to not only a great player, but also to someone who has contributed in many other ways to the Sundridge Park Club, and the sport he loves.

50 Years of Tennis Competition

Another player entering the record books is Denis Costelloe of Catford Wanderers LTC. He celebrated 50 years competing in North Kent Tennis this year, after making his debut for the Mount Pleasant Royal Mail Club in 1969, when they lost to Old Askeans at the Broad Walk SE3 venue. Denis has calculated that he has played 1,640 inter club matches since 1965 in the Kent leagues, North Kent leagues, London Postal leagues, Civil Service competitions and friendly matches. He has also played 27 times for Kent in the 70s and 75s age groups.

We believe there are more players out there who can boast similar or better records and, if so, we would like to hear from them. Please get in touch with Denis Costelloe on: denisp1@hotmail.com or telephone: 07960 308886

Seniors, Your County Needs You!

Kent has a great depth of players and puts out very competitive teams at all age groups from 9U right through to over 75s. Whilst the junior teams are selected according to very strict criteria based on LTA player ratings, it is not so straightforward for the Seniors teams. Kent has Ladies teams for over 40s, 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, 75s and Men's teams for over 45s, 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, 75s and we are really keen to hear from anyone who is interested in playing or finding out more.

The teams of 4 usually play 5 matches against other counties through the summer season, with a mix of home and away matches. The matches are a combination of singles and doubles, with some players only playing doubles. Most Kent Seniors teams compete in Division 1 groups so play at a high standard for their age group. Teams winning their group in Division 1 then go through to a national finals event in the autumn in Dudley which decides which county will be crowned National Champion.

Because many players over 40 don't play singles competitively, selection can't be made based on LTA rating, so other results such as performance in Kent inter-club leagues and district leagues or in the annual Kent Seniors Singles and Doubles competition are considered. Entries close for this in early September, with matches played throughout the winter until the finals in March. In recent years, only the Men's event has run, but in 2019, two Ladies age group 1 day events have been re-introduced.

You may not have thought about it before, but if you are over 40 (Ladies) or over 45 (Men) and play regularly in the higher divisions of the Kent or District Association inter-club leagues and feel you can commit to 4 or 5 matches over the summer, please do get in touch with John Watton (Men) or Hazel Lindfield (Ladies). And, if you know a good player who fits the bill, please encourage them to get in touch or pass their name on. If you are not sure whether you are of a sufficient standard you could come and watch a team when they are playing at home, usually at Bromley Tennis Centre or Canterbury LTC. Again, please contact John or Hazel to find out when a match is on in the age group you are interested in.

Contact Details:

Men:

Contact John Watton on jwwatton@hotmail.com or telephone: 07967 800069

Ladies:

Contact Hazel Lindfield on email hazel59lindfield@gmail.com or telephone: 0208 462 6487 or 07741 477907.

Seniors

A Roundup of Senior County Results



Ladies 75s. Sue Long, Judy Maitland, Janet Broster (Captain) Sarah Pout & Helen Jary.

Ladies Senior County Teams

As of 5th September, both the Ladies 40s and 50s teams had played three and won three matches, with two to play. The 55's finished 2nd in Division 1A losing narrowly to Surrey, the 60's finished level on points with Essex, but finished 2nd on rubbers. The 65's finished 3rd in Division 2A and the 70's finished 4th in Division 1A. The 75's however have won Division 1B and will therefore go to the Finals where they will play Surrey for the National title.

ALVTP 25th Anniversary

25th Anniversary Association of Lady Veteran Tennis Players (ALVTP)

On 8 October 2019 the ALVTP, run by June Pearce, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary at Bromley Tennis Centre. The ALVTP organises very popular one day mid-week doubles events for ladies aged 40+ across Kent and the South East.

June will be organising a tournament for 30 players in the morning, followed by lunch and a special 25th Anniversary cake.

Committee members Janet Broster and Mary Harvey will pay tribute to June, and Marcia Ackers will speak about June's playing achievements, which include captaining GB Seniors teams for many years and she is currently captain of the GB Ladies 80s team.

For tournament, membership information and entries, please contact June Pearce:
Tel: 01702 339320
Email: june.pearce@pobroadband.co.uk



Men's 65s: Rob Andrew, Chris Morgan, Jasper Cooper & Bob Whitehead

Men's Senior County Teams

As the annual carousel comes to rest (with one or two bags still unclaimed), Kent Men's Senior teams seem to have laid claim to two finals (for the first time for several years), one promotion, and two much-improved 2nd places, but with two good teams likely to slip down into the 2nd Division for next year.

Dominant in their group were the 65s, led by Jasper Cooper, who currently seems able to win singles from Sopot to Shrewsbury. Reinforced latterly by Bob Whitehead, and with strong support from Rob Andrew, Robin Garratt and Chris Morgan, the 65s won all their matches and comfortably deserve their place in the final, against Dorset at David Lloyd Brierley Hill on 30 November. This is probably the one age-group where Kent had a number of good players to spare, notably last year's captain Chris Mackenzie.

The South Coast will also provide the opposition when Kent's 70s play Hants in the final. Their way to the final was strongly-contested, with Leics and Sussex also winning four and losing one, but a team of Keith Clark, Peter Pharo, Jonathan Potter (Captain) and Gordon Hayward proved up to the task.

In a rather spatchcock 50s Group 2A Dino Skeete's team seems to have won promotion, and next year Dino will also have Jason Baker, Nigel Cannon and Mike Roi to call on. But Dino will have to select himself at least once to obtain his county colours!

Two teams retained their 1st Division places but with much improved positions, the 45s up from 4th to 2nd and Gary Sims' 75s (aided by the return of Bob Milner) coming up from 5th to 2nd, after a tight win over Herts, whilst the 45s were unlucky (or unwise!) enough to encounter Cambridgeshire's two very strong players in their opening fixture. John Gotke and Nigel Cannon did particularly well.

Lastly, there were two relegations, the 55s and the 60s. The 55s went very close, travelling for their final match to Hull and losing 2-3 to Yorkshire, but their fate was probably sealed when against Surrey, Kent had two straight sets wins but lost all three ten-point tie-breaks. As for the 60s, they were always up against it, but a team of John Watton, Colin Edmonton, Nigel Jordan (Captain) Ian Milligan had a good 3-2 win over Hampshire.

Seniors

ITF Seniors Tournament 2019, Tunbridge Wells

Once Wimbledon is over, it's time for Tunbridge Wells LTC to host its International Tennis Federation (ITF) Seniors Tournament, its 101st year in 2019. The tournament should take place on the club's eight grass courts, but due to weather conditions, the artificial clay courts were used on some days.

The Men's youngest age group of Over 35s was dominated by Zane Cheeseman who won the singles and doubles, partnering Stephen Weatherall to beat Tunbridge Wells LTC club champions, Richard Freeman and Pete Henshall in a good quality final, 6-3, 6-2. As usual the tournament had an international theme to it with players from as far afield as Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Germany, Turkey, Argentina and Australia. It was great to see one of these, Italy's Alessandro Cesario, win the 50s singles, defeating Cambridgeshire 45s captain, David Mills 6-3, 6-4. There was more Kent success in the 65s Singles, with Canterbury's Jasper Cooper winning another title, his seventh singles title in the last 10 years. The 70s Men's events belonged to Rennie Johnston who beat Wilf Jessop to win the singles 7-5, 6-2 and then was back on court on the same side of the net as Wilf as they beat Andrew James and David Trew to win the doubles event.

The star of the show in the Ladies events was undoubtedly Horsmonden's Gillie Turner who was the only player to win three events – winning the 35s Singles, then combining with Freedom Leisure's Jane Gentle to win the 50s Doubles defeating Karen Gillam and Sharon Sykes 6-3, 6-1. Finally, Gillie won the mixed veterans doubles with husband, Kevin, a member at Tunbridge Wells LTC.

A successful tournament was once again completed under the watchful eye of referee, Phil Evans – thank you, Phil. A big vote of thanks also goes to all the club members who give up their time to organise the tournament before and during the week.

Keith Clark stars in LTA Promotion

One of our seniors, Keith Clark from Ramsgate who plays at Margate LTC, featured recently in an LTA promotional film. Keith does a fantastic job as the volunteer who organises the Kent Seniors Singles and Doubles event and he also represents Kent in the 70s Men's team. In the film Keith talks of the enjoyment he still gets from tennis since he started aged 20, now playing 3 to 4 times a week, captaining his club's over 45s and 60s teams in the inter-club leagues and being part of the Kent Men's over 70s team which has reached the National Finals in Dudley this year. Please visit our website (www.kenttennis.org) to see the film and be inspired by Keith.

ITF Seniors Tournament 2019, Canterbury

Canterbury Tennis Club at Polo Farm Sports Club hosted its annual International Tennis Federation (ITF) Seniors Tournament in May sponsored by Advantage RedCourt. Over 70 players entered in age groups from 45s to 70s. Competitors travelled from Argentina, Canada and Ireland as well as across the UK. National 65s champion, Jasper Cooper, was among the entrants for the 65s event.

The tournament was played in fine sunny conditions on the club's highly regarded Advantage Redcourt artificial clay courts. Spectators witnessed great hard court tennis with prolonged baseline rallies, subtle angles and disguised drop shots. The Men's 45s singles final between Gianluca Santoro and Chris Smith, in particular, provided a sustained, impressive display over two hours.

In the Ladies Over 60s Diana (Dee) Smith beat spirited resistance from Alison Meakin (Kent) and Sheila Williams (Aberdeen) in a round robin event. In the doubles, the pairing of Tom Barry (Ireland) and Mark Girdler (Canada) won the 60s age group, and the home pairing of Jasper Cooper and Chris Morgan won the 65s age group.

Full Singles Results:

Men's 45s	Gianluca Santoro (Surrey)	beat Chris Smith (Cornwall) 7-5, 6-2
Men's 50s	Peter Gillespie (Kent)	beat Graham Kirk (Herts) 6-1, 6-1
Men's 55s	Mark Rowe (Hereford)	beat Jeourg Schlueter (Germany) 6-1, 6-0
Men's 60s	Tom Barry (Ireland)	beat Stephen Davies (Lincs) 6-3, 6-2
Men's 65s	Jasper Cooper (Kent)	beat Barry Gilbert (Surrey) 6-1, 6-3
Men's 70s	Jonathan Potter (Kent)	beat Phil Trew (Essex) 6-2, 7-5
Ladies 60s	Diana Smith (Worcs)	won a round robin.



Clubs

Bearsted and Thurnham LTC 40th Anniversary

Bearsted and Thurnham Lawn Tennis Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary on 8 June.

Approximately 150 people attended, including current members, founders and past members, family and friends. Despite heavy showers during the afternoon, everyone enjoyed fun tennis and games, an exhibition match and live jazz music. A hog roast with salads, followed by strawberries and cream were provided, and the ice-cream factory was greatly appreciated.

Speeches by founder member, Peter Church, the Club President, Alan Wilkins, Kent Tennis Deputy President, John Watton, who is also a club member, and Club Chairman, David Burton, were followed by the cutting of the special Anniversary cake, a toast and thank you those involved in the foundation of the club.

A great time was had by all, especially founder and past members who caught up with many old friends and said how much they appreciated the effort and planning put in to creating such an enjoyable social event.



BTC's Record Breaking Summer

2019 was the most successful year for summer holiday camps at Bromley Tennis Centre. 2847 spaces were filled during the five-week summer holiday period in a range of tennis and multisport activities including tots, mini and junior tennis camps plus dodgeball, rounders and red ball matchplays. A total of 600 children and adults enjoyed the summer activities.



Kings Hill - Beach Tennis

The Kings Hill Community Tennis Club took on a new challenge on a Saturday in July by organising a group outing to Brighton for a spot of beach tennis. We are a fun and friendly bunch and decided to play our own tournament which inevitably brought out the competitive streaks. Cue players desperately diving for shots and ending up lying in the sand!!

Beach tennis is fast paced and dynamic with some similarities to tennis but also some very noticeable differences, such as the net being a similar height to badminton and solid paddles used instead of tennis rackets. As in tennis, points are won by playing a shot which lands in the court but isn't returned by the opponent or if the opponents ball hits the net and doesn't go over. On the sand the ball can't bounce so you have to be quick. Scoring is similar to tennis with 0, 15, 30, 40 but with sudden death at deuce. You have only one serve but it can be placed anywhere within the court. This makes for a speedy game.

We played at the beach-front courts in Brighton. It was great fun to watch and play. The location was superb with the pier and the ocean in close proximity, as well as a bar next door for refreshments. We played for two hours which was filled with fun and laughter as well as some great (and not so great) shots. An experience we will not forget and would highly recommend.

If you would like more info about Brighton beach tennis and how to book their courts, visit the website: <http://beachtennisuk.co.uk>



Clubs

Kent Tennis Family Day at Oakwood LTC, Crayford



It was all sunshine and smiles at Oakwood Tennis Club on Sunday 21 September. Around 200 people enjoyed the fun activity and the friendly atmosphere. Highlights of the day:

- The Family Cup red competition with 18 pairs, won by Sam and Mark Morgan from Shooters Hill with runners-up Mark and Alex Bickerton from Sevenoaks.
- The Sadie Bristow Foundation Fastest Serve and Toy Story Target competitions.
- An exhibition match with four top Kent County players - Sophia Thomas, Olivia Parson, James Markiewicz and Oliver Richards.
- On court activity for beginners and players, led by club coaches
- A scrumptious selection of home-made cakes, bar-b-q and drinks
- Guess the sweets in the jar, a bottle stall and a raffle
- A 'Breaking Ground' Ceremony.

There were more than 20 club and Kent Tennis volunteers on hand to meet guests and new families, run the tennis activity, cook and serve food and drink. Tom, a club member, was on the mike just about all afternoon keeping everyone on their toes. John Ratcliffe from Kent Tennis introduced players and announced winners, and President of Kent Tennis, Vanessa Webb, presented the prizes.

It was a special moment when the Mayor of the London Borough of Bexley, Councillor Geraldene Lucia-Hennis, pushed the spade into the ground near the clubhouse marking the start of the club's next adventure. They have only recently completed the building of 3 new courts and refurbishing the original three and were winners of the Kent and Regional LTA Award and a National finalist for Club of the Year. And now they have raised enough money to build a new clubhouse. What a journey!

Gavin Nelson, Club Chairman, said; "The success of the club over the last few years is the culmination of many different things – the coaching programme, the committee, and the volunteers".

In her speech, the Mayor gave her thanks to the lovely people of Oakwood Tennis Club, everyone who came along to support the event and, in particular, Gavin himself.



Robert Ratcliffe from the LTA Regional Team said; "It's fantastic to see so many people enjoying the Kent Day and great to see the passion and commitment of the Oakwood and Kent volunteers to make the day happen. The progress this club has made is incredible".

No time for the dust to settle. As the team cleared up, they were preparing for the arrival of the bulldozers the very next day. We all look forward to seeing the new clubhouse next spring.



Disability Tennis

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Schools Championship

This summer saw the 5th annual SEN Schools Tennis Championship at the Bromley Tennis Centre. This event has grown each year, with 65 children competing in 2019. Players came from Glebe, Marjorie McClure and Riverside schools. It was a fun-packed championship with an improved level of tennis being played. Lots of laughter was had and it was played in excellent spirit and sportsmanship. After 3 hours of tennis we had our boys and girls finals, with Bobby Steel and Beth Etheridge, both from Glebe School, being crowned the 2019 champions.

This event couldn't be run without the support of Mike Kitteridge (Glebe), Guy Wilkins (Marjorie McClure) and the wider support from other members of staff.

If you know of any SEN Schools who would like to take part in the 2020 Championships, please contact tom.defrates@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk

Do you or any wheelchair tennis players in your club need a sports wheelchair? Kent Tennis now has 10 junior and 10 adult sports chairs which can be loaned out, free of charge, to players who are starting their wheelchair tennis journey.

Please get in touch with Tom to find out more and arrange a loan.



Parklangley Learning Disability (LD) Event

In May, The Parklangley Club held its first ever Learning Disability tournament for players in its Special K group. It was a great event run by Sally Nunn and 20 players took part and had a great experience.



Whitstable LTC Sessions for the Local Disabled

As part of the Great British Tennis Weekend in May, the Whitstable club (WLTC) opened its courts to a very special group of people who have learning difficulties including Down's Syndrome, Autism and Global Developmental Delay. The young people were assisted and supported by members of the local wheelchair tennis club based at Polo Farm in Canterbury, who brought some adapted chairs for everyone to try.

Specialist coaching was provided by Tom from Inclusive Sport who was able to differentiate the session and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to practise new skills or try tennis for the first time.

The afternoon was a huge success with many passers by stopping to watch and commenting on how uplifting it was to see wheelchair tennis on their local courts.

Julian Shaw, The Chair of WLTC said "Tennis is a truly accessible sport and can be adapted to suit abilities. The afternoon afforded participants the chance to improve social skills, develop confidence, fitness and co-ordination. As a club we are passionate and committed to developing more inclusion opportunities for the disabled community".

One parent said "Thank you for inviting my son. As a parent of a disabled child, I often experience social isolation. It was great to chat to other parents and share and exchange experiences whilst the young people enjoyed the coaching session".

The WLTC is keen to further increase links with our friends at Polo Farm, and looks forward to welcoming them back in August. Moreover, monthly coaching sessions for people with additional needs are on the agenda for 2020. Watch this space!



Coaches

Kent Coaches Network Growing

The Kent Coaches Network membership has gained momentum this summer. There are now 76 members who are enjoying the benefits of getting together to share coaching ideas. A group of Head Coaches from the north of the county met and discussed good practice in coach contracts, recruitment and programme retention. In July, there was a coach workshop at The Parklangley Club, where, led by Matt Borthwick and Neil Biddle, ideas for holiday camps were shared. The coaches in East Kent are meeting in September. Also, in July, Luke House led a workshop for 22 Junior Tennis Leaders from various Kent clubs. They practised their on-court organisation of groups of mini red players, learned new activities and created their own activities and games.

Autumn events for coaches have so far included an LTA Performance workshop for County coaches on Wednesday 18 September and South East Conference on 23 September, both at Bromley Tennis Centre. The latter was attended by no less than 100 coaches, 61 of whom were from Kent. On court sessions were with the very popular Louis Cayer, advisor and coach to Jamie Murray. Off court was with Mike Lynch founder of ServeSport who presented the essentials of running a coaching business.

The LTA Coach Autumn Forums are in October at Bromley and Canterbury with 95 coaches so far signed up.

Luke House is planning the schedule for the next round of network meetings and workshops. There will be four coach workshops around the county with different topics, so that all coaches can benefit, and a further leader workshop on 1 December. Look out for information from the Coach Network and let's great a great attendance.

As volunteers Neil and Luke lead the running of the network and hope there will be 100 members by Christmas. If you're a coach reading this, please consider joining; if you're a player or parent, please tell your coach. Joining is easy via the Kent Tennis website.

Meanwhile, news from the Bromley Coach Education Centre is that there was a 100% pass rate on the summer Level 3 coaching qualification course. There were 17 coaches on the course and 5 were from Kent. And Tom Carlton, from Bethersden Tennis Club has recently qualified as a Level 3 tutor, an excellent achievement.

Courses coming up for coaches are:

- Cardio Tennis
26 November 9-3pm
- Marketing Strategy for Tennis Businesses
4 December 9.30-1.30pm
- Level 3 Coach Qualification
starting 18 December
- Level 4 Coach Qualification
Starting 4 December
- First Aid
24 November and 8 December

Sue Bamford is the Coach Education Centre Manager at Bromley Tennis Centre and can be contacted with any questions on:
sue.bamford@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk



LTA South East Team

Following last edition's article explaining the new LTA Participation Strategy, we now focus on how this plays out in reality with a look at what the LTA South East Regional Team has been working on over the last eight months in Kent.

Kent is part of the London and South East Region, the biggest region in the country in terms of players, numbers of courts and population. This means we have a fantastic opportunity to really open tennis up by working together with clubs, communities and education sites.

The LTA Regional Team is made of up 12 people and headed by John Golding. 8 Partnership Development Managers/Partners, 2 Competition Specialists, a Workforce Development Partner and a Disability Development Partner work with clubs, park, community and educational sites to support them to get more people playing and open tennis up. The first part of the year saw the team working with Kent Tennis to plan visits to the 119 venues in Kent to introduce themselves to clubs and see how the team can provide support to attract more people and to open tennis up.

The majority of venues have told us through these face to face visits and via the National Survey that they want to increase membership so a lot of conversations have centred around running Nature Valley Open Days with strong marketing plans behind this. Many other venues and coaches said that they were keen to attract new juniors into their programme so were encouraged to take advantage of Tennis For Kids which is a 6 week intro junior programme (£25 for 6 weeks with racket, balls and personalised t-shirt).

Further conversations turned to how can we get adults and juniors playing more tennis at clubs and community sites leading to better retention, so we spoke about the importance of competition and, in particular, fun recreational competition in the form of Team Challenge. Other areas venues said that they needed support with is how to let more people from the local community know about them and how to cut their administration time, and this led to conversations about using management programmes such as Clubspark which can help manage membership, raise a club's profile through a user-friendly website and also develop pay and play through the online booking system.

In the autumn, there will be the fantastic opportunity for all Kent clubs and community venues to attend the Club Forums to find out more about the LTA support available and hear about what is going on in Kent, so please do make sure you book onto your nearest one, see details below.

Tuesday 15th October	Avenue Tennis	7-9pm
Tuesday 22nd October	Polo Farm Canterbury	7-9pm
Wednesday 23rd October	St. John's Tunbridge Wells	7-9pm
Thursday 24th October	Bromley Tennis Centre	11am-1pm
Thursday 24th October	Bromley Tennis Centre	7-9pm

Contact Janice White in the Kent Tennis team if you need more info about the Club Forums on 01689 880757 or Janice.white@kenttennis.org.uk

The LTA SE Regional team look forward to continuing to work with you to grow our sport and open tennis up. If you want to get in touch with the team, contact Jem Lee on Jemima.lee@lta.org.uk

Volunteers

National Volunteer Week

It is thought there are more than 50,000 volunteers involved in tennis in the UK, and the LTA and Kent Tennis made the most of this year's National Volunteers Week from 3-9 June. Scott Lloyd (CEO) and David Rawlinson (Deputy President) made a short video, along with LTA staff, to say a thank you to all the volunteers who contribute to tennis activities in clubs, communities, competitions and much more. Kent Tennis's Janice White sent the video link on to volunteer contacts in Kent clubs with a message from the Kent Tennis Board of Management. Some clubs passed it on with their own message to their volunteers. Kent also nominated four volunteers to receive a personal phone call from the LTA. They were Mimi Hoffman of Horsmonden, Jo Thomas of Shooters Hill, Dave Ash of The Parklangley Club and Anne Gibbs of Herne Bay.

Hopefully, one way or another, lots of Kent volunteers received a message of appreciation.

If you are a volunteer in your venue and you missed getting a thank you, we at Kent Tennis would like to say thank you to you now. Without you, tennis simply wouldn't happen. There are several other ways we recognise the contribution of volunteers. The Kent/LTA Awards are a great way to do this and you can be nominated. Also, each club in Kent can nominate a hard-working volunteer for the opportunity to buy a pair of Wimbledon tickets. The main club contact for each club should be in touch with a Kent Tennis Councillor who will ask for a nomination in January/February.

Eastbourne College

Eastbourne College has attracted a number of Kent tennis juniors in recent years, who have benefitted from its all year-round tennis training programme and represented the school in tennis competitions. Phoebe Watton and Summer Reeves from Maidstone, Ines Pelvang from Tunbridge Wells and Antionette Chastang from Canterbury are amongst them.

The Master in charge of tennis is Simon Gent who manages the balance for the students between playing top tennis and academic study. He has previously run tennis programmes at Kent schools and still represents Kent in the County teams in senior age groups. The tennis programme at Eastbourne College is run by Luke Milligan and the school supports pupils who apply for tennis scholarships at US universities. Phoebe is one of them who has gone to US College this year.



Officials

Kent Officials Network

Tennis officials play a crucial role at all levels of our sport.

Here is the lowdown on the different types of official:

Court Supervisors

Being a Court Supervisor is a great way to get involved in tennis at the grassroots level. They are responsible for monitoring several courts at a tournament and help enforce the Rules of Tennis and Code of Conduct, as well as resolving on-court queries. They assist and educate players, parents and coaches and help with the smooth running of an event. To become a Court Supervisor, you need to attend a three hour course. Find out more by visiting the LTA website Workforce section (www.lta.org.uk)

Referees

The Referee is the expert in all things rules and regulations. A Referee runs a tournament, from taking charge of the draws and schedules, to enforcing the rules and making sure everything runs smoothly and in the spirit of fairness. Being a Referee requires exceptional knowledge of the rules of tennis, the ability to multi-task in a pressured environment, and to listen and communicate well with everyone involved with the tournament. To become a tennis Referee, you must complete and pass a two day course.

Line Umpires

Line Umpires get to call the shots – literally – at all levels of tournaments. Line Umpires need to be able to concentrate for long periods of time, be team players, and of course require excellent eyesight. They act as an extra pair of eyes and ears for the Chair Umpire. Becoming a Line Umpire is the quickest pathway to getting on court at tennis tournaments. You will need to attend and pass a one day basic Line Umpire course.

Chair Umpires

Aside from the players, the Chair Umpire is the most important person on court during a match. They have enormous responsibility during a match and look after everything from calling the score to enforcing the rules and managing the players. A successful Chair Umpire needs great communication skills, the ability to stay calm under pressure and 20:20 vision.

You must be over 16 to become an official.

If you would like to know more about becoming an official or the LTA Officials Licence Scheme visit the Workforce section of the LTA website (www.lta.org.uk).

Officials

In Profile - Charlie Falconer - Umpire

Charlie Falconer has umpired at numerous tournaments in Kent and at Wimbledon and Eastbourne during his 48 year career as an official. This year he won the coveted 2018 Official of The Year at the Kent Tennis Awards. Kent Tennis volunteer, Susan Peters-Berg spoke to Charlie to find out more.

1) How did you become an official?

In 1971 Charlie was living less than a mile away from the Craiglockhart Leisure and Tennis Centre in Edinburgh. On his first visit he was approached by the secretary of the East of Scotland Umpire Association and asked whether he would like to umpire a match, which he politely declined. When he returned a second time, she made him an offer he could not refuse, which was to pay him! He was paid 25p for that match and umpired five matches in the first week, the start of a long and illustrious career. Charlie's talents were soon taking him to tournaments around the country, most notably the Dewar's Cup circuit which was a series tour of British indoor tennis tournaments. Charlie's first stint at the All England Club was in 1972 on Court 11 and he has only missed two Wimbledon tournaments since. This year was his 45th tour of duty as an umpire at Wimbledon.



2) What qualities do you think you need to become an umpire?

Charlie says you need to have a good voice and the ability to concentrate for long periods. At Wimbledon there used to be strict hierarchy. However, Charlie started on Centre Court and the following year he was asked to umpire on Court 1. His first match at Wimbledon was to umpire a mixed doubles match which featured the very talented player from the Czech Republic, Helena Sukova.

3) How do you help maintain the high standards required for officials?

Charlie believes that mentoring younger and less experienced umpires is the key to keeping good people in the game. He played an integral part in setting up the new Kent Officials Network in 2018 and maintains high level multiple qualifications as a chair umpire, linesman, referee and court supervisor which requires him to work 45 days a year just to maintain his accreditation.

4) Describe a memorable experience during your career as a tennis official.

Twenty years ago, Charlie was hit on the head by a ball and the video capturing this moment has been replayed many times on national television, having appeared on Aunties Bloomers and "What Happened Next" in the BBC's programme A Question of Sport.

In Profile - Matt Dagwell - Referee & Court Supervisor

West Wickham based Matt Dagwell qualified as a Level 1 Court Supervisor last year and helps referee junior events at The Parklangley Club. He spoke to Kent Tennis volunteer, Susan Peters-Berg, about his pathway to becoming an official.



1) How did you become an official?

Matt is only 19 but he has already managed to achieve more than most in a very short time. He studied Medicinal and Pharmaceutical Chemistry at Loughborough University for which he received a first-class certificate of Higher Education. However, he took the last academic year off to focus on coaching and officiating. Susan Finch, Tournament Organiser at The Parklangley Club, encouraged him to enrol on the LTA Court Supervisor's course and he has not looked back. He is already a Level 1 Court Supervisor and a R5 Referee. He has also completed his Level 2 coaching qualification and is currently doing the Level 3. Matt returned to study Chemistry with Biomedicine at Kings College London and in his spare time he will continue to coach and officiate in Kent.

2) What qualities do you think you need to become an official?

Matt says that to be a good official you need to be confident and able to deal with players and parents in a professional manner. There is a clear set of rules on the LTA website about Fair Play values and the Code of Conduct which highlights good sportsmanship, honesty and respect, and these should be reinforced by officials. Matt commented that the LTA Tennis Parent Workshops are helping to combat difficult situations and appear to be making a difference to the behaviour and mind set of parents at competitions. They can get emotional, especially when a match is particularly tight. Coaching is not allowed and court supervisors are taught to look for hand gestures and even more creative methods of coaching such as coughing at the end of a tense point. Code violations can be given for communication of this kind.

3) What makes a good referee?

Matt says that to be a good referee you need to have confidence and able to stand your ground when necessary, as players, coaches and parents may disagree with you. You need to have good interpersonal skills as well as a sound understanding of the rules. Referees need to be able to communicate effectively before, during, and after

Recipe

The Missing Ingredient



Here's another cracking recipe to help you keep up your energy levels, from Kent County Seniors Captain, Hazel Lindfield. These are so simple, but packed full of healthy nutrients. Beware of anything that you might be allergic to though as they do contain nuts and seeds.

Nutty Energy Bars

½ cup of oats

1 cup dried apricots

¼ cup roasted coconut flakes

¼ cup pistachio kernels

¼ cup pumpkin seeds

¼ cup sunflower seeds

4 tbsp your favourite nut butter

1½ tbsp coconut oil

1 tsp vanilla extract

100g 85% dark chocolate (which is the healthier option, but I have used milk chocolate because that's what the athlete in my family likes)

Put all the dry ingredients in the food processor and blitz roughly. Then add the remaining ingredients and blend until it makes a paste (but its best if you still leave some chunks for texture). Press the mixture down into a lightly greased dish about 8in x 8in and put it in the fridge to harden for about 40 minutes. Cut into bars and pop them in the freezer while you melt the chocolate very gently in a glass bowl over a pan of warm water. Once the chocolate has melted, dip the frozen bars into it, place them on a cold tray and leave to set. You can keep them in the fridge for a couple of weeks or freeze them. Enjoy!

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