

Season's greetings from Kent Tennis

As we enter the holiday season, we send our very best wishes to all Kent Tennis players, club members, volunteers, coaches, team captains, competition organisers, referees, umpires, court supervisors, supporters and staff. Thank you for your support and hard work throughout the year to make tennis in Kent so successful, both locally and countywide, in another difficult pandemic-hit year.



Whilst we have all had to deal with COVID restrictions and precautions, tennis within Kent has rarely looked stronger. Clubs have, on the whole, prospered as more people, coming out of lockdown, have realised what a great sport tennis is to play, with increases in membership and more people on the court. The summer saw competitions flourish with leagues in full flow and a very successful County Championships being run. Kent's County Teams have had their best year, with 5 National titles (more on our latest wins below), and, of course, what a year Kent's Emma Raducanu has had winning the US Open, awarded WTA Newcomer of the Year and BBC Sports Personality of the Year (more below).

We hope you all stay safe and are able to enjoy time with your family and loved ones over the festive period. We wish you a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

[To read more on the Kent Tennis year, please see our Kent Tennis Annual Review 2021 on our website here.](#)

BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2021



Capping off a brilliant 2021, Kent's Emma Raducanu has deservedly won BBC Sports Personality of the Year. Having thrilled the nation by reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon, Emma far exceeded that by winning the US Open and, in doing so, became the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam singles title.

Finishing the year as world number 19, the world's media voted Emma as WTA Newcomer of the Year. Now the British public have voted Emma as only the third British female tennis player to be awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year, and the first since Kent's Virginia Wade (in 1977).

Well done to Emma – we look forward to seeing her progress in the years to come!

Kent's unparalleled success in Winter County Cup



Records were broken as Kent's Ladies and Men's teams both became National Champions at the Winter County Cup this month. Kent Ladies became the first team since 1969 to win 5 years in a row, whilst Kent Men became only the second team to win both Summer and Winter County Cup as well as the Men's 35s County cup in the same year.

The ladies' remarkable 5th consecutive win, was captained again by Holly Richards, and supported by Vice-Captain Jacqueline Darby, as they beat Hampshire, Middlesex and Northumberland. The players were Alice Gillan, Nell Miller (who didn't drop a set all weekend), Sofia Johnson, Gabby Chidwick, Sarah Wray, Olivia Parson and Tabitha Howe.

The men were captained for the final time by Andy Burgoyne. Andy is the most successful Kent captain now, standing down after 13 years in the role, and having won 5 County Cups. Andy is also the only player to have represented Kent on over 200 occasions. What a great way to end his captaincy by leading Kent to both Summer and Winter national titles this year (in the same year he played in Kent's Mens 35s national win too). Kent Men beat Yorkshire, Essex and Lancashire. The players were Anton Matusевич, Jack Pinnington Jones (who, on his debut, didn't drop a set all weekend), James Davis, Matt Summers, Nick Brookes, James Markiewicz, Matt Short and Hugo Coquelin.

Well done to all of Kent's players this year, who, at all levels, have applied the ethos and spirit required to compete in county team tennis, battling hard on the court for their county. Thank you - the Garden of England is in full bloom!



For more news on all of Kent's successful teams this year, please see the [County Teams](#) section of our website here

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Contacts

Phil Lynch: phil.lynch@kenttennis.org.uk
Janice White: janice.white@kenttennis.org.uk
Harri Izzard: harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk
Craig Allen: craig.allen@kenttennis.org.uk
Office Telephone Number: **01689 880757**
(The Office Telephone Number is currently diverted through to Janice White)

