



KLT Online – September 2022

As summer turns to autumn, we reflect upon the summer's tennis, looking at how Kent's teams have performed, who has been successful in national competitions and a review of our County Championships.

If you are a club main contact, please do share this KLT with your club members.

We hope you enjoy the read. Don't forget to tell us your news for future publications and please encourage your friends to subscribe:

info@kenttennis.org.uk



Kent County Tennis Championships 2022

As usual, the last week of school summer holidays brought the flagship tournament in Kent, the County Championships. Bromley Tennis Centre provided the venue for the week long event, with matches taking place for up to 13 hours each day. Entries were up by over 20% on 2021 with 358 entrants across 27 events ranging from 8U to Open.

The week ended with a busy finals day where Sebastian McDonnell-Palomares and Chloe Cleaver triumphed as Boys and Girls Singles County Champions (18U winners) for the first time, beating Angus Howard and Darshani Popat respectively. Chloe completed a double when winning the Girls 18&U Doubles partnering Anais Gauthier.

Mention and congratulations must also go to Iris Grosso, who was the only player to win more than one singles event, being victorious in the Girls 10U and 11U Singles beating Olivija Konstantinova in both finals. Other people to collect the winners' trophies for two events (including at least one doubles) were Alexis Chastang, Matthew McLain, Isabel McLain, Alessia Popescu and George Diable.

The largest entry was in the Men's Singles with 59 players competing in matches all taking place after 6pm. The event was won by Joe Young who played brilliantly all week, losing only 8 games in his 5 matches. Alessia Popescu was nearly as dominant winning the Ladies Singles without dropping a set.

Congratulations to all the winners and losing finalists. They kept a big crowd entertained all day with some excellent tennis in the finals.

The qualifying events scheduled for the weekend before at other venues around the county were cancelled due to a lack of entries. Next year we will look to make changes to encourage more entries. Please do let us know if you have any ideas that would help persuade you or your children to enter.

2022 saw the first learning disability events held in our County Championships.

This will be a regular event and we hope to build on this in future years. Pictured below are competitors from Bexley Mencap with their county t-shirts and medals.



Finally, a big thank you to the Tournament Committee led by Janice White, the tournament team of Referees, Chris Mann and Jason Baker and tournament director, Graham Silvester, and of course all the helpers, including court supervisors, umpires. Kent Tennis staff and volunteers (especially Keeley Wicks and Emma Nelson on the welcome desk). A particular mention goes to Chris, who is stepping down as Lead Referee after 12 years, transforming the tournament into one of the most successful county championships in the country, with entries rising to over 400 (the record being 440 in 2017). Thank you to jdm Estate Agents who sponsored this event for the first time, and also, our thanks go to Bromley Tennis Centre for being excellent hosts and partners, in the running of the tournament once again.

More details on the County Championships can be found on our website here:
[COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS | Kent LTA \(kenttennis.org.uk\)](https://kenttennis.org.uk)

Full list of finals day matches can be found here:

[Matches - Kent County Championships 2022 | LTA - Tennis for Britain](#)

Roll on August 2023 for another successful and, hopefully, record breaking County Champs, which will also be the centenary for our junior events.

Pictured below are the Kent 18U County Champions, Sebastian and Chloe.



Summer County Cup – Kent Men a close second!



With both Kent's Men and Ladies competing in Group 1 at Eastbourne, on the back of both having been Winter National Champions, hopes were high for the summer. Kent Men, as holders, came so close to repeating the glories of the past two summer competitions, and finished as runners-up by the tightest of margins. They won their first four matches, including a convincing win over eventual champions, Hertfordshire, but lost 5-4 to East of Scotland in a very tight, high quality match, played in great spirits on the final day. Well done to captain Alastair Filmer, vice-captain Sean Thornley and the rest of the team (Nick Brookes, Lewis Burton, James Davis, Ben Gusic-Wan, James Markiewicz, Francis Sargeant and Matthew Summers).

Kent Ladies found themselves hampered by illnesses and injuries this year,

both before and during the week. In a tough division, also won by Hertfordshire, after battling well, they were regrettably relegated to Group 2, with hopes that in 2023 a swift return to Group 1 will be achieved. Commiserations to captain Holly Richards, vice-captain Jacq Darby, and the team (Gabby Chidwick, Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale, Sofia Johnson, Natasha Munday, Olivia Parson, Alaia Rubio-Perez, Abby Taylor, Phoebe Watton and Sarah Wray).

Both captains thank the many supporters who came down to Eastbourne again this year to cheer on Kent's teams and creating a great atmosphere. This really is appreciated by all the players.

Finally, congratulations to Ben Gusic-Wan who beat Richard Whichello's 40 year record and became Kent Men's youngest ever county cup player at 14 years and 8 months.

Junior County Cup Boys win 2 more National Titles

Having started the year with Kent's Boys 18U team becoming national champions, the Boys 10U and Boys 9U teams both won their qualifying groups and went on to become national champions.

The Boys 9U were very impressive winning all their matches in the national (south) finals comfortably - very impressive indeed! Well done to captain Tom Samson, vice-captain Lucy Morice-Jones, and players Henry Harrison, Lewis Kefford-Watson, Harrison Mirrington, Matyas Oprchal and Jake Spooner.

The Boys 10U had dominated in all their matches to reach the national final, and then came up against a strong Yorkshire side whereby they won through on a final shoot out to be crowned national champions. Congratulations to Captain Brett Spencer-Stephens, Vice-Captain Sam Smith and players Darnay

Hunnygen, Tony Keohane, Eoin Lambourn, Matyas Oprchal, and Luke Pratten.

Overall, as well as 3 national titles, our junior teams did us proud with a further 6 teams finishing runner-up in their qualifying groups.

For more information on our county teams this year, please see our website here:

[COUNTY TEAMS 2022 | Kent LTA \(kenttennis.org.uk\)](https://kenttennis.org.uk)

Welcome to our new Competitions & Performance Coordinator



In August, after an extensive review process, we welcomed Siobhan Butler to the Kent Tennis Office Team as our new Competitions & Performance Coordinator. Siobhan will report in our Office Manager, Phil Lynch, whilst also supporting our Performance Manager, Craig Allen.

Siobhan is already known to many people in Kent, having supported our competitions and refereed a good number of events over the years. But, to introduce her better to you all, we sent out our Honorary Secretary, Jason Baker out to interview Siobhan. The interview can be found here:

[Welcome to Siobhan](#)

Kent's National Champions in Juniors and Seniors



Kent's players have been achieving great things in national championships this summer. Firstly, early on, Ben Gusic-Wan won the 16U Boys Doubles before Eloise Newberry (pictured) impressed by becoming National 14U Girls Singles Champion, as well as being runner-up in the Girls Doubles.

Congratulations also to both Judy Zhang and Milena Nahornaya who each were runners-up in the Girls 11U Singles and Doubles respectively.

In the National Seniors Closed Grasscourt Championships, at Wimbledon, 7 of the finals contested by Kent players. So, our congratulations go to the following:

- Zane Cheeseman - Men's 40s Singles **CHAMPION**
- Terry Coles - Men's 45s Singles Runner Up
- Bob Milner - Men's 85s Singles Runner Up
- Zane Cheeseman & Steve Weatherall - Men's 35s
Doubles **CHAMPIONS**
- Paul Salter - Men's 50s Doubles **CHAMPION**
- Hazel Lindfield - Ladies 60s Doubles **CHAMPION**
- Jane Gentle & Sally Holmes - Ladies 60s Doubles Runners Up

With Judy and Milena being in the youngest national age group finals and Bob Milner in the oldest, we really do have some great talent across all ages.

Special mention also to Bob Milner on winning the British Clay Court Championships 85s Singles earlier this year, some 70 years after he won his first Kent County Junior Championships title in the Boys 15U Doubles!

Ruben and Ellen's success at the National School Games



Well done to both Ruben Harris and Ellen Tribley who both met with success in Wheelchair Tennis at the National School Games. Whilst Ellen won the bronze medal in the Girls Doubles, Ruben Harris was the dominant boys player in the finals this year, as he won Gold Medal in the Boys Singles, Boys Doubles and Mixed Doubles. For more on this event, please see the link to the LTA's report here: [Ruben Harris among top performers at School Games National Finals \(lta.org.uk\)](https://lta.org.uk/news/ruben-harris-among-top-performers-at-school-games-national-finals)

Peter Stotesbury (1937-2022)



It is with the greatest regret that we inform you that Peter Stotesbury passed away on 19 September at the age of 85, following a lengthy illness.

Peter was probably best known to Kent Tennis Officials as a Kent Tennis Councillor of 21 years from 1989 and sat on the Kent Men's Selection Committee for 34 years from 1975, being awarded his Honorary County colours

in 1997. He was also the Kent Men's Fixtures Secretary for 18 years – aiding three successive (and successful) Kent Men's Captains Charles Bailey, Paul Bourdon, and Richard Whichello. He was a kind, softly spoken gentleman whose enthusiasm for the sport of tennis was enormous, and his wise counsel was often sought out by his peers. Peter was awarded the County Lifetime Achievement Award in 2017 for all his work both at Parklangley and for the county; the LTA were so impressed with his work, he won the LTA Regional Award too.

Peter also played to a good standard, representing Kent's Veterans Mens over-45s team in 1984 and 1987, as well as being Kent Veterans Men's 45s Doubles Champion in 1986. He continued playing right up until last year when illness finally prevented him stepping onto court.

Peter was inextricably linked with The Parklangley Club; his grandmother was a member (winning their Ladies Singles soon after the club started in 1911) and his father, Donald, (also a Kent Tennis Councillor, of 24 years), mother Eileen, brother Mike (who played for Kent Men in the early 60s), wife Diana, and all his children (Nicola, Tim, Alison and Julia) played at the club. Peter was Tennis Captain in the 1960's, first team captain at Squash, and played Badminton, whilst also becoming Chairman and Director of Parklangley Freeholds Ltd.

Outside of tennis, Peter was a devout Christian, becoming a lay preacher in the church, a keen Rotarian, an enthusiastic walker, and a lover of wine. Our thoughts and sympathies are with Peter's wife Diana and his family at this challenging time.


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If you know someone who would like to receive this communication in the future, please contact the Kent Tennis Office at info@kenttennis.org.uk



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