



Kent Tennis Day 2023

Meopham Lawn Tennis Club

Meopham LTC the current Kent LTA Club of the year (2022) had the privilege of hosting the annual Kent Tennis Day and they certainly did Kent proud!

With this being a high-profile event, the Kent LTA team came out in force to support the event that included Kent LTA President Mary Evans, Deputy President John Ratcliffe, Clubs and Coach Engagement Coordinator Janice White, Kent Tennis Competitions and Performance Coordinator Siobhan Butler and County Press Officer Vanessa Webb.

Distinguished guests the Mayor and Mayoress of Gravesham, Meopham Councillor Frank Wardle, Louisa Arnold from Kent Sport, and Alison Best representative from the Helen Allison School.

The day started at 1pm with an opening speech from the club chairman Andy Candler welcoming everyone and giving thanks to his hardworking committee, members and club volunteers who had played an important role organising the open day that not only the club can be proud to promote but also for the Kent Lawn Tennis Association and it was an opportunity for the club to open up its facilities to local people from across Kent, and the Meopham and Gravesham Community to actively take part. The Mayor and Mayoress of Gravesham were invited to officially open the 'Family Cup Tournament' A Parent Child event, promoted and run by the Kent LTA team on the club's new clay courts to start the proceedings.

Meanwhile on the hard courts there was an enthusiastic Coaching team looking after over 100 players (Young and not so young), with Cardio Tennis, Rusty Rackets, Performance drills and the opportunity for beginners to enjoy tennis with support and coaching from an enthusiastic young and vibrant team and some fun outside games with the chance to win some goodies and of course refreshments galore, made by club members or purchased through local businesses. The day also gave the opportunity to support the Helen Allison School, who helps children and young people on the autism spectrum. A number of children from the school came along and had their own session with the coaching team, which was one of the highlights of the day with enthusiastic smiles from all who took part.

The day finished with an exhibition doubles match played by the four of the county's top female players: Three of whom have played tennis internationally at junior level and represented Great Britain in their respective age groups: Daisy Rowland, Eloise Newberry, Lois Newberry and Leticia Romanova.

This was followed by a presentation to the Exhibition Players and to all that took part in the Family Cup. Family Cup winners were Sam & Paul Powell from Shooters Hill and runners-Up Sam and Rob Illingworth from Meopham. Fair Play awards were presented to Josephine Muzio and Gabbi Mckay.

Thanks were given to Sport England, Kent County Sport and the Lawn Tennis Association for their financial support. Meopham Council who have supported the club over the past few years and to Club Chairman Andy Candler, the Club Committee, the Match Point Tennis Coaching Services team and the

volunteers who made this day a special day in the clubs' history...And the sun shone brightly on them all throughout the day!

