



KENT
TENNIS

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

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Welcome from the President

Mary Evans



As I reflect on my first year as your President, (it goes without saying that I was hugely surprised and deeply honoured to be invited to this prestigious role), I have had the privilege of attending some of the many and varied events around the County. There have been so many different levels of competitions and tournaments which have taken place, Volunteer days, openings of courts, the County Championships where I helped out on the Welcome desk, and not forgetting the very well run and enjoyable Kent Tennis Day which for 2023 was held at Meopham Tennis Club (the Kent Club of the Year) and masterminded by Andy Candler and his team, with guidance from John Ratcliffe.

In one fortnight, I attended tournaments for the Under 8's through to the Over 75's, including the Senior Schools Championships and the Seniors Singles and Doubles events. A true reflection of the diversity of competition taking place countywide.

With the advent of the change to the structure of Kent Tennis to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and to follow the guidelines as set out by the Charity Commission, we have had to say thank you to two of our long serving and experienced volunteers who have served on both the Board and Council. They are Malcolm Smith, who was a member of both Council and was Chairman of the Board for 12 years, as well as holding the role of Treasurer for five years. John Ratcliffe served on the Council for 11 years, and the Board for 9 years. He was Chairman of the Venues, Coaches and Communities committee as well as an integral member of the Awards panel. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude for their time volunteered willingly to support and direct Kent Tennis and for the support given to clubs throughout the County.

I would also like to say a big thank you to the staff in the Kent Tennis Office for all their hard work and dedication to the Association, and the support they give to the volunteers. Also, not forgetting all the coaches, tennis assistants and teachers providing quality coaching programmes around the County.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who work around the County in clubs both large and small, schools and parks facilities. Keep up the good work, it is really appreciated by players, parents, and carers. Without your selfless work, Kent Tennis would be the poorer, thank you for all that you do for the sport that we all love.

Mary Evans
President

Chairman's Report

Malcolm Smith



Firstly, I would like to make no apology for the rather more personal nature of this my last Chairman's annual report. After almost 15 years on the Board and Chairman for most of those years, I cannot help but feel some level of personal sadness as I step down to hand over to a newly reconstituted Board.

However, I am extremely confident that Kent Tennis will remain in extremely capable hands going forward under its new stewardship and as such this sadness is supplanted with the belief that we will go from strength to strength and continue to be seen as one of, if not the leading county, in terms of its governance and management practices.

This last year has, of course, been dominated by our transition to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Under the excellent and tireless leadership of Nigel this transition has now been effectively implemented and all the various 'moving parts' have been put in place. This was no small undertaking but ultimately delivers a structure for Kent Tennis that will provide us with a much more 'fit for purpose' base going forward.

As part of the transition, we also had to steer the Board through the loss of some of its most experienced members (John Ratcliffe, Jason Baker, myself and of course Sandi Procter) who had exceeded their allowed term in office. Some serious succession planning was required and I am pleased to say that the Board has come out the other side with the addition of some very experienced and capable individuals who I'm sure will not only bring new ideas and thoughts to our endeavours but continue to provide strong management and leadership to the county.

Along with this change we also introduced a new Committee structure which was deliberately designed following the demise of the Council, to ensure the continual involvement of as wide a set of volunteers as possible - it was important not to lose the valuable input and contribution of our Council members. It is very pleasing to see this new structure working so well and providing excellent support and decision making for the Board.

This was also the first full year under the LTA's new County Governance framework. Fortunately, much of what we had already been doing put us in very good shape for all of the requirements and this was strongly validated when we received a clean bill of health following the LTA audit that was carried out later in the year. A fantastic achievement and big thanks to Phil and the office team for all the preparatory work that they carried out ahead of this.

Finally, a few words of thanks as I sign off for the last time.

Our clubs and volunteers continue to be well supported and a very big thank you must go to John and Janice for all that they have done. Coffee mornings and club forums continue to be a success and a valuable source of current updates and advice to clubs and venues. Also, thanks to Clare and Anna for driving our communications efforts and in particular for finding new ways to actively engage with our wide range of volunteers across the county.

I could also not miss this opportunity to pass on my personal thanks to Phil Lynch who stepped down as Kent's Office Manager recently. He has given so much to Kent Tennis over the years and in his capacity as Office Manager and his support to the Board and with all our sponsors has been invaluable to me.

And of course, a big last shout out to all those Board members, both past and present, who have contributed so much and put Kent at the forefront as a standard bearer for good practice. My time in the Chair has been made that much easier by having such a competent and knowledgeable set of individuals to work with and I step down now with very fond memories of everything that we achieved together and the hours we spent in the meeting room at BTC trying to cover everything within the allotted two hours!

So, I leave wishing both the new Chair and Board all the best but confident in Kent's future under its strong new stewardship and I look forward to observing from the side lines as we continue to lead from the front and set the standard across counties.

Malcolm Smith
Chairman of the Kent Board of Management

Highlights 2023

Pat Brady	UK Pro League Singles Final Champion
Alice Gillan	UK Pro League Singles Finalist
Ben Gusic-Wan	16U Nationals Singles Champion Played in the Boys Singles and Doubles at Wimbledon Kent Tennis Junior Player of the Year Represented Team GB in Junior Davis Cup
Ruben Harris	GB Boys World Team Cup Wheelchair Tennis Champion
Judy Zhang	12U Nationals Semi Finalist Represented GB in a 12U Team Competition 12U Tennis Europe Halton, Winner & RU in Wrexham Winner Kent County Champs 16U singles event
Eloise Newberry	ITG Siauliai Cup Winner
Jasper Cooper	World over-70s Men's Doubles Champion Winner of 3 National Singles and 2 National Doubles Titles No.2 in the world over-70s Masters doubles rankings No.5 in the world over-70s Masters singles rankings No.6 in the world over-70s Masters Mixed doubles rankings
Dave Willan	Scottish Masters Indoor Men's 70s Doubles Champion
Bob Milner	National Clay Court Men's over-85s Singles Champion National Closed Grass Court Men's over-85s Singles Champion
Toby Churchill	National Masters Clay Court Men's 30's Singles Champion National Open Grass Court Men's 30s Singles & Doubles Champion
Zane Cheeseman	National Closed Grass Court Men's over-40s Doubles Champion National Open Grass Court Men's over-40s Singles Champion and Men's over-35s Doubles Champion
Joe Cooper	National Open Grass Court Men's over 35s Singles Champion National Open Grass Court Men's over 30s Doubles Champion
Colin Coombes	National Open Grass Court Men's over-60s Singles Champion
Niall Sweeney	National Clay Court Men's over-70s Singles Champion
Mens 45	National Runners Up
Mens 60s	National Champions
Mens 70s	National Champions
Mens 75s	National Runners-up
Ladies 55s	National Runners-up

Details of the Junior County Cup results are shown on page 7.

County Performance Manager

Craig Allen



Another successful year was enjoyed in the County Training Programme with no fewer than 217 children aged 5-18 years old involved in monthly training sessions. The programme running from September 2022 to June 2023, kicked off with the 8U Open Day where 74 children attended from 13 clubs around the County, a 27.5% increase of the 58 children from 2021 -2022 and a 30% increase of the 10 clubs.

In 2023 we had 80 children aged 6-8 years old receiving monthly training sessions with their peers, across 4 programmes; 7U, 8U 'A', 8U 'B' and East Kent. The 9U-18U age groups brings together the best players from around the County and focuses on the British Tennis Doubles system, preparing the players for the Junior County Cup competition that kicks off with the 18U in February /March and ends with the 12U in September /October.



County Cup

Kent is one of only a handful of counties that enters teams into every age group of the National County Cup from 9U all the way through to 75s. At junior level, the age groups are at 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U and 18U each for Boys and Girls. There is also a summer Men's and Ladies County Cup, a winter Men's and Ladies County Cup, a Men's and Ladies over 35s County Cup and a Seniors County Cup with age groups for Ladies 40s, Men 45s, and then 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, and 75s each for both Ladies and Men. The format of each event varies slightly according to the age groups.

Kent enjoyed mixed success throughout the 2022/2023 season with the Men's Winter Cup team finishing runners up in Group 1 in Bath whilst the ladies team were promoted to Group 1.

Junior County Cup

Kent's Junior County teams had a very successful year competing in the LTA County Cup 2023. With the 18U Boys winning Division 1 for the second consecutive year and the Girls gaining promotion to Division 1 for 2024. The 11U Boys were crowned National Champions, with the 9U Boys, 9U Girls and 10U Boys, all winning their Regional groups and qualifying for the National Finals where they finished Runner Up, third, Runner Up respectively. The 11U Girls, 12U Girls and 14U Boys all also finished as National Runners Up. Congratulations to all the players and Captains and thank you to the parents for their support.

Kent Tennis Junior County Cup results 2023

Age Group/Position	Regional position/Q	National Finals Position
8U Boys	Runner Up	
8U Girls	Winners	
9U Boys	Winners	Runner Up
9U Girls	Winners	3rd
10U Boys	Winners	Runner Up
10U Girls	Runner Up	
11U Boys		Winners
11U Girls		Runner Up
12U Boys		6th
12U Girls		Runner Up
14U Boys		Runner Up
14U Girls		6th
18U Boys		Div 1 Winners
18U Girls		Div 2 Winners

A full list of County Cup results can be seen in the results section Appendix B.

County Championships

As usual, the last week of the school summer holidays brought our flagship tournament in Kent, the County Championships. Bromley Tennis Centre provided the venue for the weeklong event, with matches taking place for 13 hours each day. Numbers were up by over 12% on 2022 with 595 entries across 27 events ranging from 8U to Open. The week ended with a busy finals' day where Tim Viding (Bromley Sports Club) and Daisy Rowland (Shooters Hill LTC) triumphed as Boys' and Girls' Singles County Champions 18U winners (both pictured below) for the first time, beating Nathan Williams-Allen and Judy Zhang respectively. Tim and Judy had excellent weeks both reaching four finals. Congratulations must also go to Milla Bray from Sevenoaks TC who was the only player to win more than one singles event, being victorious in the 10&U and 11&U Girls' Singles.

The largest entry again was in the Men's Singles with 62 players competing in matches all taking place after 6pm. The event was won by Jack Pegden from Margate LTC, who played brilliantly all week, beating Tim Viding in the final. Chloe Cleaver (Bromley Sports Club) was dominant in the Women's Singles, winning the event without losing 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.

We held our Inclusivity Festival before the County Championships with 13 players taking part.

Finally, a big thank you to the Tournament Committee led by Siobhan Butler, the tournament team of Referees, Jason Baker and Graham Silvester, and the tournament director Sarah Langford from Bromley Tennis Centre and of course all the helpers, including court supervisors, umpires, Kent Tennis staff and volunteers. A particular mention goes to Jason, who made his debut as Lead Referee. Our thanks also go to Bromley Tennis Centre for being excellent hosts and partners in the running of the tournament once again.

Roll on August 2024 for another successful and, hopefully, record breaking County Championships. We are aiming to make a few changes for 2024, including starting the Championships a day earlier on the Sunday, focusing on playing the early rounds of the Men's and Women's Singles on the additional day, and adding 35& Over Singles events.

A full list of Champions and runners-up can be found in Appendix B results section .



Seniors

The Seniors County Championships are run both for Men and Ladies, with Keith Clark and Siobhan Butler running these respectively during the winter, with prizes sponsored by Clark Inns Limited. These are for players who are either Kent qualified (birth/residence) or are a member of a Kent registered club. This is an especially useful way of prospective county players being seen by the relevant Seniors' Captains ahead of the summer inter-county championships selections.

The Men's events are run as a postal tournament, from October onwards for age groups from 45s to 75s, with the finals being held in March at Bromley Tennis Centre. The Ladies' events were held as one day doubles event for 40s/60s and 50s/70s respectively and were also held at Bromley Tennis Centre.

Entries increased to a healthy 178 entries across 16 events for 2022/23. We are looking at how we can build on the success of these events and include Seniors' events within our County Championships, whilst being mindful that the British Open Grass Court Championships are held at the same time as the County Championships. The Competitions Committee will be looking at some options for 2024.



Play Your Way to Wimbledon

Play Your Way to Wimbledon is the largest junior tournament in British Tennis, providing 14U, 18U and Adult players (with a World Tennis Number between 23.0 & 40.9) the opportunity to progress from clubs and schools through to competing on the world famous grass courts at the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), Wimbledon. Players who secure a place in the finals at the AELTC gain a real insight into what it might be like to take part in the Wimbledon Championships themselves. Competitors have access to the player restaurants and locker rooms and play on the practice courts.

We encourage local clubs, parks and schools to stage a tournament for their members or pupils. The winners of these events then progress to the Kent County Finals with the County winners being invited to the Play Your Way to Wimbledon Finals held at the AELTC, Wimbledon, in August. Kent Tennis organises the county finals of this event, and our thanks go to Graham Silvester, Jason Baker and Angie Suleau for refereeing our Girls, Boys singles finals and our Junior and Adult doubles finals along with Mary Evans, Kent Tennis President for presenting the trophies.

Kent's County singles winners, Robbie and Bella, played at the the All England Club in August in the Boys and Girls events respectively with Bella winning her way to the quarter-finals.

Schools Tennis

Kent Tennis runs competitions for both primary and secondary schools and supports nationwide LTA Youth schools' competitions within the County. In 2023 we were able to run our Kent Schools' Programme along with the LTA Youth Schools for Years 7&8, 9&10.

At primary school level, we ran the Kent Tennis Primary Schools' Competition, a doubles event at red, orange, green ball levels. We ran 2 qualifying events spread across the County to allow for local competition, with the top 16 teams invited to the finals at Bromley Tennis Centre in June. 117 teams participated in the Bromley qualifier, from 18 schools and 54 teams from 5 schools took part in the Canterbury qualifying event.

At secondary school level, we ran the Kent Tennis Secondary Schools' Competition, a doubles event for both boys and girls in Years 7&8, 9&10 and 11-13. This event is a 1-day doubles competition with 152 teams from 25 schools taking part.



We also provide a Secondary Schools' League Competition that runs under the umbrella of LTA Youth Schools. This event covers both boys and girls in Years 7&8, and Years 9&10. 98 teams from 30 schools participated. There are three divisions of competition to accommodate for all levels of player, as follows:

- Division 1 is for schools who can field a team of higher ranked performance players. Schools compete in Round Robin boxes leading to elimination draws which in turn decides the Kent Division 1 winner that will then go on to compete at a regional and national level.
- Division 2 is for schools who tend to have more club level players. Schools compete in local Round Robin boxes and the winners of each area will come together to compete in a final at the Kent Schools' Games. These finals take place in conjunction with other sports, which creates a real buzz for our county finals. The winner at these finals go on to compete at a regional level.
- Division 3 will be run in 2024 to encourage the less experienced and beginner player to enjoy the sport of tennis at a very local festival level. Schools from across the county volunteer to run an after-school event for a cluster of schools to introduce them to the game.

Our thanks go to the large team of volunteers who regularly support the running of Schools' Tennis; Kent Tennis main schools' volunteer, Mary Evans, (President of Kent Tennis who kindly presents the prizes), Siobhan Butler (Kent Tennis Competitions & Performance Coordinator), all the teachers and other volunteers and staff at our partner organisations. We look forward to seeing you all at these events next year!



HEAD Official Ball of Kent Tennis Ball Offer



Registered clubs in Kent have access to preferential ball prices with Tennisys. Please contact them directly for information about the special offer.

TENNISYS Arch 1 Mill Row, Bexley High Street
Bexley. DA5 1LA
01322 586833

HEAD

Kent Tennis HEAD Inter-Club Leagues

The Kent County Lawn Tennis Association Doubles Leagues are one of the oldest in the world, having started in 1890. The Summer Season starts in April, runs through to August with Divisional play-off finals in September. The Winter Season starts at the end of September and runs through to Divisional play-off finals in March.

Ladies' Doubles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles are played in both summer and winter. The summer leagues also have Midweek Ladies' Doubles, Midweek Seniors 45s Men's Doubles and Midweek Mixed (45s Men/40s Ladies) Doubles. The winter has Seniors 40s Ladies Doubles, Seniors 45s Men's Doubles, Midweek Seniors Ladies 60s Doubles, Midweek Seniors Men's 60s Doubles and Midweek Seniors Men's 70s Doubles leagues. Leagues are run with teams of two pairs in both summer and winter.

To keep all the above running like clockwork throughout the year, ensuring results are entered correctly, unknown players' names are entered, any queries resolved, and keeping the LTA Tournament Software up to date, relies on the excellent work of our volunteers and our thanks go to our diligent competition organisers (Anne Gibbs, Mark Martin, Rachael Taylor and Vanessa Webb) and the Inter Club Leagues' Coordinator, Keeley Wicks. Our thanks also go to Siobhan Butler in the Kent Tennis Office Team for her invaluable help, especially in setting everything up on the League Planner/Tournament Software site for the online results recording and assisting Keeley and the league organisers answer numerous queries.

The winter season 2022/23 completed on schedule in March, with 422 teams entered. There were 356 teams entered into the summer 2023 season.

The leagues are sponsored by HEAD UK, the official ball supplier to Kent Tennis.

Appendix B, the Results Section of this Annual Review has the full list of winners for the completed Kent Leagues.

District Leagues & Associations

There are 4 District Tennis Leagues being run within Kent that are affiliated to Kent Tennis. They have their own constitutions and committees but can turn to the Kent Competitions' Committee for advice and assistance where relevant.

The District Leagues (and number of affiliated competing clubs) are:



Inclusive Tennis

In 2023, Inclusive Tennis in Kent experienced a fruitful year, highlighted by a successful Inclusive Tennis Festival during the Kent County Championships. Nineteen participants engaged in three hours of tennis games, fostering enjoyment, camaraderie, and healthy competition.

Throughout the County, notable progress was made in collaboration with charity partners such as Mencap, Mind, Parkinson's UK, and Age UK. This collaboration resulted in increased participation across all impairment groups. Various venues including Canterbury Polo Farm, Whitstable, Shooters Hill, Bromley Tennis Centre, Meopham Tennis Club, Sundridge Park, Hythe LTC, Oakwood Tennis Club, Horsmonden LTC, Tonbridge KTC, Gravesham TC, and The Avenue have actively embraced the LTA Open Court Plan, delivering inclusive sessions and helping to grow the programme including weekly outreach sessions offering dementia friendly tennis in care homes.

Looking ahead to 2024, the primary objective is to further boost participation countywide and launch an Inclusive Tennis Series leading up to the 2024 Kent County Championships. If you're interested in becoming part of inclusive tennis initiatives, please reach out to Tom via email at disability.tennis@kenttennis.org.uk.



Padel

Padel as a sport continues to grow with approximately 150,000 players nationwide and 400 courts, 50% of which are indoor. The LTA have made a £5m investment in the growth of the game mainly through loans to venues.

Padel in Kent in 2023 continues to flourish with the demand for court time exceeding availability - currently Kent only has 9 courts. During the next 12 months we expect padel courts in the County to increase significantly as many clubs and venues are looking to invest in padel courts some of which are already with planning departments across the County awaiting a decision.

Padel sessions for adults and children with disabilities have been very successful and are being expanded thanks to funding from the LTA Tennis Foundation with more community inclusive padel sessions being offered.

In 2024, we will hold our first County Padel Championships which will be a great opportunity for players and spectators to see the level of talent we have in Kent.

If you would like any further information on Padel in Kent please contact: Anna Wilson via email annawilsonhq@gmail.com.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding continues to be a priority and is an integral part of how we operate reflecting our aims of tennis being played in a safe and inclusive environment.

As part of the LTA's governance audit undertaken in 2023, our overall approach to Safeguarding and our supporting policies received high praise along with the role our Safeguarding Officer, Janice White, plays in helping to support clubs in this important area. Our safeguarding policies can be found on our website: www.kenttennis.org.uk/safeguarding

Overall welfare standards remain high in Kent and the LTA Regional Safeguarding Officer, Stuart Parsons, continues to conduct visits to venues and clubs in the County to support them and their Welfare Officers in ensuring they are meeting the LTA safeguarding standards as well as increasing awareness of the importance of safeguarding in tennis. Further details can be found here - www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/venuestandards/

New this year, the LTA launched a Safeguarding in Tennis Awareness week which coincided with the NSPCC CPSU "Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport" week. Scheduled the week commencing 2nd October, the week consisted of a number of virtual webinars and case study workshops which aimed to provide practical tips and examples to support people in their roles as County and Club Welfare Officers, coaches and committee members.

Safeguarding regularly appears on the discussion items for the Kent Tennis virtual coffee mornings and club night in. Kent Tennis has appointed a Trustee who has a focus on Safeguarding.

Everyone involved in tennis in the County plays an important role in assisting the LTA Safeguarding team in promoting and embedding a culture of safeguarding in Kent so that it becomes the "norm" ensuring we have a safe and inclusive environment for all people to participate in tennis.

Currently Janice White is the County Safeguarding Officer but Jane Parish, the Operations Manager is due to take over that role in May.



Kent Tennis Officials Network

The Kent Officials Network is now in its fifth year. The group aims to bring together on and off court officials in the County to share ideas and best practice and support each other in developing and learning, particularly for our less experienced officials. Most meetings are conducted virtually with one face to face meeting held annually at Bromley Tennis Centre each of which has been attended by between 10 and 15 referees, umpires and court supervisors. We have discussed, and learnt together, on a range of topics including:

- the recruitment of new officials
- a review of the tournaments in the County in 2023 and how to make them even better in 2024.

We would like to thank Jason Baker for chairing/leading the Officials Network, Chris Mann for his significant contribution to the group and the sharing of his extensive knowledge and experience, as well as Siobhan Butler for her assistance with the administration.

It would be great for more officials to be active in the group so calling all Kent referees, umpires, line umpires and court supervisors who have not attended before, why not give one of the meetings a go in 2024? If you would like more information about the Officials Network or officiating in general, please contact Jason Baker at jasonbakerp80jab@btinternet.com



Kent Tennis Coaches Network

The Kent Tennis Coaches Network (KTCN) was started in 2018 with the aim of bringing to coaches together to share coaching ideas and be part of a coach support network. This proved to be invaluable during the pandemic providing a large amount of support for coaches with online webinars to help keep developing coaching knowledge.

In 2022 we ran training sessions for existing Tennis Leaders/Assistant coaches. Following feedback we received in 2023 we introduced the Tennis Leaders' course at venues around the county at a subsidised rate for young leaders in the County. Kent Tennis are proud to have supported over 50 young people at the start of their coaching and volunteering journey and at their tennis venues.

This year has also seen the continuation of the Kent Tennis Mentoring Scheme. The scheme this year supported 3 coaches who made a big impact at their venues by establishing a disability outreach programme, encouraging more females at their venue to transition from junior to adult tennis and helping a coach develop the confidence and skills to take the next step on the qualification pathway

Venues & Communities

Kent Clubs

In 2022/23, Kent's registered venues numbered as follows:

- 118 clubs
- 4 District Associations and Leagues

Kent Tennis is very grateful, once again, to Janice White for the fantastic support she has continued to provide to clubs. Janice has liaised with clubs, getting them to attend the Kent Tennis online Coffee Mornings with over 80 people from 44 venues ensuring clubs all received the useful information discussed at the meetings. She has supported clubs during the registration period especially when they faced unexpected problems. John Ratcliffe, the Chair of the Committee also continues to provide excellent advice, initiating challenging discussions and providing support across the county.

In addition to Janice's monthly updates, the LTA's South East Regional Team have regularly contributed to our meetings which has helped to keep clubs up to date with LTA initiatives. Our links with the team have grown stronger through the year leading to many new initiatives and facilities being embedded in our Clubs.

In September we host an annual Kent Tennis Day. With the aim of helping to promote interest in the LTA Annual Tennis Awards the event is hosted by the venue that won the Club of the Year, which for 2022 was Meopham Lawn Tennis Club. Opening up its facilities the event attracted over 150 people of all ages and abilities who enjoyed a range of fun activities including free coaching, group-fitness Cardio Tennis sessions, Rusty Rackets for those who hadn't played in a while and there was a Family Cup for adults and children to compete together, and an exhibition match by four of the county's top female players: Daisy Rowland, Eloise Newberry, Lois Newberry, Leticia Romanova. Pupils with autism from the local Helen Allison School enjoyed coaching sessions run by the club.



Awards

Kent Clubs

Kent Tennis has been running Annual Awards since 2004 and now participates and feeds into the nationally run LTA Tennis Awards process. The LTA Tennis awards are organised by the LTA and have been in place since 2015. The purpose is for everyone in British Tennis be it a volunteer, player, school, club or coach to be recognised and voted for by anyone who wants to make a nomination.

The awards in 2023 were made on the basis of the preceding year's activity, namely 2022.

Kent received 177 nominations across 19 categories which was a record year with winners in 12 categories going forward to the next stage of the LTA regional awards. The next stage was the National Finals which were held at the NTC in July.

The Awards Committee has the challenging task of shortlisting the nominations down to a final 3 and all short listers were invited to the Annual Awards Dinner, which was held on Saturday 11 February 2023 at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel in Bearsted and was attended by 163 people. We had special guests in attendance with the LTA President Sandi Proctor as well Tim Freeman from Trevor May Contractors who along with Council members presented the winners with their awards. Trevor May and Head, provided the Club of the Year and School of the Year prizes respectively. The Lifetime Achievement Award which is given to someone who has provided exceptional service to tennis in Kent over a period of time, and who has gone above and beyond to help deliver or facilitate tennis in the county was presented to Andy Burgoyne.

Full details of the County winners are in Appendix B the results section of the Annual Review.

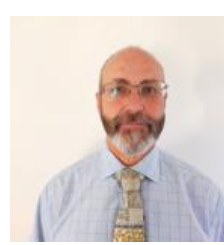
Kent Tennis was delighted that three county winners were successful at the South East Regional stage: The North School, School of the Year, Whitstable Tennis Club, Tennis for All Award and Zane Cheesman Development Coach of the Year and were invited on 27 June to the Rothesay International in Eastbourne where they were presented with their awards.

Following on from this success, on 4 July 2023, the North School were crowned National Winner, School of the Year, Craig Allen National Runner-up, Performance Coach of the Year, Whitstable Tennis Club, National Runner-up Tennis for All Award and Zane Cheesman, National Runner-up Development Coach of the Year.



Financial Report

Nigel Jordan Treasurer



With the Association moving to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 1st January 2024, decisions were made to move our financial year end to 31st December 2023 from 30th September 2023 thus aligning the new financial year with the commencement of the new CIO. The financial report is based on the period 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2023 which involved significant changes and I am pleased to report that we have navigated our way through them and come out even stronger and better-placed than before.

Overall, our finances have remained tightly controlled although inflationary pressures have seen a rise in our cost base. Team and event budgets across the tennis landscape were stretched or needed to be slightly increased. The Board agreed an overall deficit budget of around £15,000 resulting in us having to start to invest our significant reserves into tennis in the county. Due to a fantastic increase in the total amount we received from sponsors and donors, our planned deficit turned into a surplus of around £22,000 despite financing several additional initiatives during the 15 months period.

Some of the changes were driven by a new framework for county governance that was agreed in 2022 between counties and the LTA. Under the new arrangements, counties no longer receive the LTA Registration fees paid by their member clubs which annually equated to around £57,000 for Kent Tennis. From January 2023 these fees were retained by the LTA. However, we received £90,000 grant from the LTA to support delivery of our core role and our first report of expenditure against the LTA grant was submitted in February 2024.

Our efforts to increase income from donors and sponsors has reaped rewards over recent years. The production of a sponsorship brochure, the creation of the CIO and huge efforts by the dedicated personnel involved, saw our income from these sources rise from an average of £37,000 to a record £112,000 in the last cycle. This allows us to do so much more to drive tennis forward in the county, helping us to make it more inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

The Supporters Club continues to be a vital part of our income despite Wimbledon tickets no longer being available to this type of patrons' club. Maximising our relationship with supporters and fans is a key focus going forward, especially now that we have charitable status. We really appreciate everyone who supports Kent Tennis – financially or through volunteering.

To ensure there is no gap between what funding we offer and the LTA Quick Access Loan Scheme we increased the amount we can loan to clubs to £25,000. During this period, Kent Tennis provided £61,000 in loans to 5 venues with a further 3 applications being considered after the accounting date. I am pleased that venues continue to seek our help in this way, and I appreciate the input from everyone who was a member of a 'loan panel'. Repayments from club loans are fully up-to-date and there are no concerns about any of the current borrowers.

Our total expenditure and long-term cost base continue to increase slightly year on year. Due to the scale of our overall activity expanding each year we have invested in a full-time Operations Manager and increased the number of staff and hours of paid support.

Our celebrations of all that is great in the county – at the Awards Dinner as well as a very successful Kent Tennis Day at Meopham Lawn Tennis Club – were wonderful ways to recognise the contribution of volunteers. They also provided a showcase for some great practice that others can emulate. I know our plans for 2024 will ensure our celebrations are even more inclusive in future – we intend to include a greater number of people from a wider variety of venues, abilities and demographics – and these will reinforce our commitment to opening tennis up to everyone.

The issues relating to the long-term future operation of Bromley Tennis Centre have not yet been resolved but are under active discussion again, with an expectation of a conclusion being reached in the first half of 2024.

Establishing the CIO and planning the safe transfer of our assets, liabilities, staff and tennis activity to the charity at midnight on 31 December 2023 has made these 15 months exceptionally busy – not just for me personally as the Treasurer but also for the Board and the staff team.

Financial Report Contd

Nigel Jordan

Dealing with the legal and regulatory issues, establishing the new structures, bank accounts, payment mechanisms and relationships have all added to the pressure on staff and volunteers over an extended period. I should therefore like to thank Phil, Janice, Siobhan, Emma, Craig and Jane, as well as all of the Board, Council and Committee volunteers for their help and support. That we have made the transition successfully is a credit to us all, working harmoniously together as one team. Thank you all.

I am equally grateful to our bookkeeper – Martin Leonard of Hayfield Bookkeeping - who helps me with the accounting, payroll and occupational pensions.

Looking ahead, we have again set a deficit budget for the coming year. Our Kent Plan for 2024 involves several areas where an investment of funds is necessary or desirable, not least a raft of interventions and initiatives that will drive equity, diversity and inclusion in our sport. The Board of Trustees has agreed to invest in this so we will be supporting clubs and venues, players, coaches and competitions which you are bound to hear lots about as the year progresses. Hopefully, it will encourage us all to consider what we can do to help achieve our mission to transform communities through tennis.

We are well placed to continue as one of the leading counties for tennis, and I look forward to the future, confident that we will succeed in achieving the goals we have set for the year ahead.

Thank You!

Thank you to Bromley Tennis Centre, Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre, The Parklangley Club and the Sennocke Centre for subsidised court use for county matches, practices and training. Also to Bromley Tennis Centre for use of meeting rooms.

HEAD UK, Trevor May Contractors, East West Connect, Clark Inns Limited, jdm Estate Agents and all our partners and donors for their continued support and sponsorship.

Account Summary 2023

KENT COUNTY LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the period ended 31 December 2023

		15 months to 31/12/23	Year ended 30/09/2022
	<u>Notes</u>	£	£
INCOME			
Registration fees	2	28,207	93,254
Other external grants	3	90,000	6,500
Competitions	4	28,596	16,896
Commercial Income	5	162,652	87,137
Miscellaneous income		537	987
Interest (gross)		<u>13,727</u>	<u>2,204</u>
		<u>323,719</u>	<u>206,978</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Participation	6	62,918	19,501
Competitions	7	117,618	73,098
Volunteering	8	15,976	3,661
Performance	9	68,778	37,450
Shared costs and governance	10	32,559	72,777
Depreciation		<u>1,135</u>	<u>148</u>
		<u>298,984</u>	<u>206,635</u>
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		<u>24,735</u>	<u>343</u>
LESS Corporation tax	11	<u>2,608</u>	<u>419</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>22,127</u>	<u>(76)</u>

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