

ONE TEAM BULLETIN



#36

4th August 2023

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WELCOME

Welcome to our one team bulletin #36. Please find a comfortable seat and an hour or so to be informed and inspired. It is almost impossible to fit in all the brilliant activities that have been happening since the last bulletin. It has been an incredibly busy period, so it's important to pause and reflect on all the amazing achievements and events during this time.

I have added a few personal stories about my visits to the many summer tournaments and regional awards presentations, as well as of course reflecting on the Championships and celebrating some less well known events. I also share some of my official duties such as opening some padel courts and my brief encounter with the Tennisables!

You might expect my highlight to have been walking out on the Wimbledon Centre Court for the trophy presentations. That was indeed a very emotional experience, and of course quite scary! However, my biggest highlight was the LTA Tennis Awards National ceremony, meeting people who have huge passion and dedication and have achieved so much for our sport.

Read on too for an illustration of just what a fabulously inclusive sport tennis can be at its best. Our player round-up is about players of all ages and abilities performing on the world stage, and we are sharing stories from all over the country, from a mural in Middlesex to the Cardiff Baseliners, from events in schools to gatherings for volunteers, from padel court openings to tennis at 10 Downing Street, and lots more.

Thank you for all your amazing stories and enjoy the read...

Sandi Proctor

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS



We all know all about The Championships and I'm guessing that most of you watched the tennis either court side or on the sofa. I heard many say it was one of the best Championships ever and certainly the final seemed to grip the tennis world and live up to the strapline of 'Always like never before'. What you may not know is that the fortnight gives us opportunities to bring tennis people together.

If you haven't yet viewed the highlights video here is the link...

[CLICK HERE](#)



PRESIDENT'S LUNCHESES

There were three lunches in the LTA President's Suite in No 1 Court. All counties and member organisations were invited to send four members of your management Committee to attend for hospitality and tickets for Centre Court. Around 150 attended and enjoyed networking with other volunteers over lunch and tea and meeting Scott Lloyd and LTA Board members.

Richard Lehman, President of Essex Tennis said "Our four attendees from Essex Tennis had a really exceptional day and made some new friends (and, more importantly, new county contacts). We have already put them to good use by being in touch with them to review ideas and best practice. The refreshments and service were outstanding, and the tennis was good too!"

Photo is of Cambridgeshire volunteers on Centre Court.



NEW COUNCILLORS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER *by Julie Wych*



Wimbledon was a great opportunity for new councillors to connect face-to-face, have conversations about the tennis interspersed with discussions about governance, finance and incorporation, and good to learn from volunteers in other regions. It was great to see wins for Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid, Neal Skupski, Henry Searle, Hollie Smart and Mark Ceban!

The President's Lunches went down well. One Cambridgeshire volunteer said, "We had some great conversations with key members from the LTA in an open manner and I just want to thank the LTA for recognising the great work we volunteers do across the country". ABTO Councillor Malgorzata Grzyb gave us an insight into the life of an official, she told us "Resisting the urge to call the ball out is not easy, every Hawkeye challenge still causes my heart to skip a beat".

The impact that the ever-evolving use of technology will have on officiating is understandably something that will continue to prompt much discussion. John Copsey received much support for his rainbow laces. Originally worn throughout Pride month in June but given an extended run for Wimbledon. I'm sure we will see them at future Council meetings!



NOTABLE OFFICIATING ACHIEVEMENTS

by Malgorzata Grzyb

Congratulations to our ABTO officials who were selected as chair umpires for the following: Ben Anderson (Ladies' Wheelchair Doubles final); Robert Balmforth (Mixed Doubles final); Andrew Davies (Girls' Singles final); Darren Michaels (Ladies' Wheelchair Singles final); Scott Noble (Quad Wheelchair Singles final); Luke Smith (Boys' Doubles final) and Chris Tortise-Crawford (Quad Wheelchair Doubles final).



Each year on the eve of The Championships, the AELTC hosts a reception for all officials working at the Championships, where our long-serving officials are recognised. This year, four of our ABTO officials were presented with their long-service certificates. Congratulations to Robert Blythe, Neil Fentum, Darren Michaels and Jonathan Tuffs for officiating at their 25th Wimbledon Championships.

INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

This year 700 National Association officials (Presidents, Deputies, CEOs etc) from 96 ITF Member Nations were accredited for The Championships and given access to seating in the International Box opposite the Royal Box. On the first Friday, there was a cocktail party for 150 of the most senior officials and an opportunity to learn more about our LTA activities and to network with each other. So much is learned from these occasions.

‘INSPIRE INTERNATIONAL’

by Hannah Ward

Our LTA Inspire Women’s Volunteer Leadership group went international on the second Tuesday and met with women from the ITF ‘Advantage All’ programme. Along with Sandi, we had short presentations by David Haggerty, ITF President; Stacey Allaster, US Open Tournament Director Katrina Adams, past President USTA and Chair of Advantage All (in photo with Kay Gilbert).



It was a hugely motivating session sharing reflections on leadership journeys and go-forward visions. Themes that came through centred on the perseverance and grit needed to forge the paths that our speakers had forged as they achieved positions that were firsts in different respects. The tenacity needed to pursue closely held beliefs and values was palpable and inspirational. The role of male allies within gender diversity work was also discussed in-line with the joint reflections of other industries. Participants left the session with an extended network to facilitate day-to-day work and goals within tennis and an increased drive and motivation to achieve those aims.

ITF Advantage All is a programme which aims to develop and maintain tennis as an equal advantage sport which serves as an inspirational role model for all Olympic and Paralympic sports. Ultimately, achieving gender balance – where everyone is provided the same advantage and opportunity across the sport, both on and off court – will make tennis better for everyone.

WHEELCHAIR TESTING ON COURT 3

In 2005 wheelchair tennis made its debut at Wimbledon and in 2023 the finals of the ladies and men's singles and men's doubles were played on the No.1 Court, building on the success and reception from fans over the years.

Currently, wheelchair tennis is played on different court surfaces around the world and despite the play being unique for each surface, currently the wheelchair set-up remains unchanged for each surface. So researchers from Loughborough University led by Professor Vicky Tolfrey in partnership with the LTA team, spent three days on court 3 in the week following The Championships, conducting a scientific study with leading wheelchair manufacturers (RGK Wheelchairs), exploring the best wheelchair set-up for grass surface to improve wheelchair mobility performance.



Most of us don't realise that there are multiple possibilities to adjust the configuration of a tennis wheelchair. The wheels and castor wheels directly influence the interaction between the wheelchair and the court surface.

Nick Webborn, CBE, visiting British Paralympic Association (BPA) Chair said: "This research is an exceptional example of how different organisations can come together to work for a common purpose. We were welcomed by the AELTC, the LTA and the players' engagement was fantastic. This project will be impactful for individual athletes and for the greater good of wheelchair tennis. This process will now continue to evolve."

Britain's Lucy Shuker, BEM, said: "The research team have been great, this is a great set up. I think it's important to be investigating the options for wheelchair tennis athletes".

While Loughborough University has an international academic track record in wheelchair tennis, this project brought a whole new dimension raising the interest of club members and visitors over the three days while data was gathered.

LTA TENNIS AWARDS FINALE

The finale started in the regions at 5 major events with over 70 presentations to winners in LTA categories and some Meritorious Service winners. At each event, there was a walk on to court to receive thunderous applause from the stands.



The National event on 4 July, was an occasion to remember. Held at the NTC and carried out in super slick style with Sandi and Leon leading and Alex's team organising backstage. It was fantastic. Our superstar presenters included Natasha Kaplinsky, Trevor McDonald, Judy Dalton, Roger Taylor, Judy Murray and Jeremy Bates. They read citations and announced winners 'Oscar style'. Photos galore, a tour of NTC and everyone off to Centre Court. The awards cycle starts again on 1 October so start looking for another set of inspiring winners. You can read more on the LTA website and access the zoom link by clicking below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



AVON AWARDS

Probably the last of the County Awards ceremoniesAvon Tennis held its 2023 Awards Dinner at the Ashton Gate Stadium. It featured the 2022 LTA Category winners, presented by Sharon Heeley, Head of Region, as well as Avon Tennis's own recognition awards.



Over 140 people of all ages attended. They enjoyed a picture quiz, the ever favourite 'silent disco' and plenty of laughter and great conversation. Incidentally, even the magician

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN JAMES OBE

Everyone at the LTA was saddened to hear of the recent death of John James on 13 June. Originally from Llanelli, John was voted onto the council of the Welsh LTA in 1963 and was very much involved in junior tennis for much of the following decade and became an international umpire officiating at The Championships.

He was elected to represent Wales at the LTA Council in 1972 eventually becoming LTA Assistant Secretary in 1973 and, amongst many roles, was responsible for the organisation of Davis Cup and Wightman Cup ties. He became LTA Secretary in 1983 through to 2002 and served on the LTA Board from 1983 – 2002.



During his career, John was involved both nationally and internationally. He was President of Tennis Europe from 2003 – 2008, a member of the ITF Olympic Committee from 1991 to 2009, and an LTA Honorary Life President in 2017. He was President of Middlesex Tennis from 2003. In recognition of his services to tennis, he was awarded the OBE in 2003.

He was a warm, friendly man full of sound advice and will be very much missed. At his funeral on 20 July there were five LTA Presidents, past and current, and a further who sent a message read out at the service, plus messages from the Presidents of Tennis Europe and the ITF. A mark of a true tennis legend.

Donations in John's memory are invited to the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust using the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#)

PLAYER ROUND UP



What a summer of tennis! It started off in Surbiton with an Andy win then in Nottingham with wonderful wins by Katie and Andy. At Wimbledon, it was Henry Searle and Neal Skupski who hit the limelight with their fabulous wins while Mark Ceban quietly got on with the business of winning the 14U title, and Gordon Reid and Alife Hewett the wheelchair doubles. Amongst the finalists were also GB's Hollie Smart in 14U, and Isabelle Lacy and Hannah Klugman in Girls Doubles.



But before Wimbledon even started, other GB players were starring in the Virtus Global Games, (5-10 June) and the Special Olympics (17-25 June). In the first, we were the most decorated team winning four gold medals, two silver and two bronze. Gold winners were Anna McBride (Nottingham) in singles and with Dominic Lannotti (Scotland) in mixed doubles. Dominic and Fabrice Higgins (Lancs) won men's doubles and team golds. Anna teamed up with Lily Mills (Middlesex) for silver in doubles while Oliver Beadle (Essex) and Luke Turnbull (Scotland) won bronze in doubles.



A GB team of 4 went on to the Special Olympics in Berlin and won 2 golds and 2 bronze medals. Matthew Brough won gold in singles, and Lily Mills and Adam Brownsword won mixed gold while Matthew Brough and Emily Clarke won bronze and Lily won bronze in singles. Lily and Matthew are currently part of the GB Learning Disability Development Squad.



GB SENIOR PLAYERS HONOURED BY TENNIS EUROPE

Seniors Tennis GB and the LTA are delighted that four of our players were selected for the prestigious annual award of Tennis Europe Seniors Player of the Year (2022), a title which is awarded to the top-ranked European player of each age category at the end of each season.



The women's list featured Michelle Oldham (50s), a first time winner, who was also the recipient of the Senior Women's player of the year award in the LTA Tennis Awards. June Pearce picked up a third award (women's 85s) to add to winning in two previous years in the 80s category.

In the men's list the first-time winners include two Brits at opposite ends of the age categories. Richard Stempnowski (O30s) and Gordon Oates (O90s). Gordon first played tennis in the park with friends in 1944.

COUNTY CUP HIGHLIGHTS

Hot off the press that Surrey Men and Hertfordshire Ladies are 2023 County Champions. It was, as always, a nail biting finish in Eastbourne. Surrey spectators and teams were actually spotted cheering on the Kent team. They are of course normally big rivals but Kent's score against Hertfordshire would ultimately influence Surrey's win. In Group 2 men it was down to the last match to decide promotion. North of Scotland had made it earlier and it was Northants who won the second place promotion at the finish post. The remarkable story of Northumberland Ladies was reported in a bulletin two years ago. And they stay up again this year, whilst Hampshire and IOW ladies came in second place and Hertfordshire won their third on the bounce.

Everywhere the groups experienced crazy weather. Huge respect to Julie Piper and her army of referees and court supervisors around the country. They were permanently fixed to weather apps, constantly adapting the order of play, and working out courts and scoring formats. A big thanks to all of them and to the venues. At the presentation, Jeff Wayne was celebrated for his 35 years as Captain of Hertfordshire men, with a guard of honour by all the players. It was a brilliant show of appreciation for someone who has given so much to the game.



Meanwhile, in Men's group 4 in Ilkley, something special was happening. On the first day, two junior players who were on debut, were chosen to play for the Cheshire team and were surprisingly paired together. Well, not only did they win all 3 matches against a strong Hampshire team, but they also then proceeded to win 15 out of 15 rubbers to join an illustrious group of players who have achieved this remarkable feat. The two players are Oliver Hague who is in his last year of being a junior and Alfie King who is only 15! We are looking at Julie now to see if this has ever happened before. It seems possible they may have made history. Elsewhere, Halle Pringle and Francesca Simpson (Durham & Cleveland), at Ladies Group 6 in North Oxford, and Alex Maggs and Alex Parker (Herefordshire & Worcestershire), at Men's Group 6 in Southsea, also added their names to the 15 out of 15 Club role of honour.

YORKSHIRE CELEBRATE COUNTY CUP RACE WIN

On the 17 June, over 120 players, captains, parents and county volunteers gathered in the hospitality enclosure at the Lexus Ilkley Trophy Tournament to celebrate Yorkshire winning the County Cup Race for the first time. It was fitting to hold the event at Yorkshire's premier tennis tournament, and despite the rain, guests had the opportunity to watch some quality tennis afterwards.



LILY'S MURAL

by Phil Veasey



Photo credit: Lily with the mural artist Will Redgrove.

You have already read about Lily Mills and her success at the recent Virtus Global Games and Special Olympics. To celebrate her incredible story and to amplify the voices of all Special Olympics GB athletes, Official Partner @toyotaUK teamed up with @will_redgrove_art and @artsforalluk to create a breathtaking mural just moments away from Lily's home in Highbury, London – in the shadow of the Arsenal Stadium!

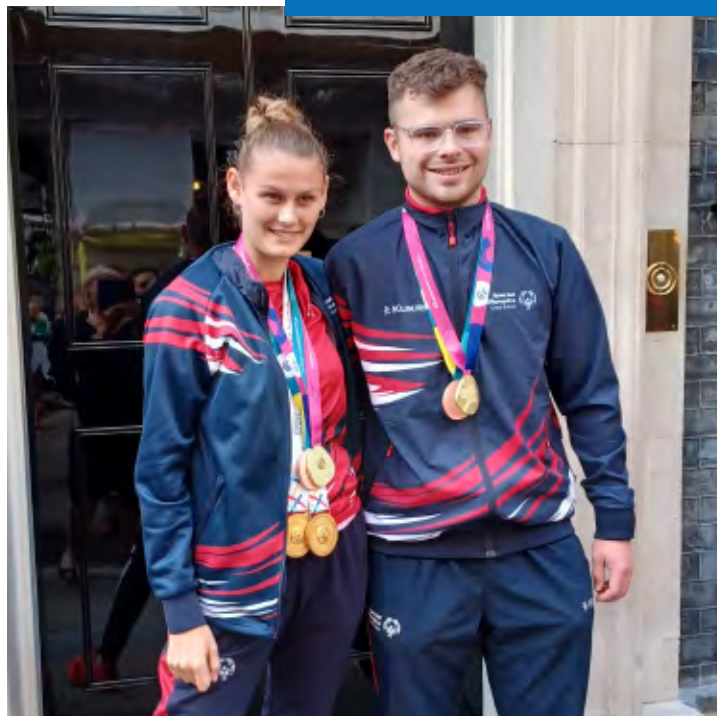
Will Redgrove, the artist, commented: "It's important to platform people like Lily and her achievements. And what better way than to create a mural in her neighbourhood". Middlesex Tennis covers north, and west London and we are so proud that an inner-city setting like Highbury is so happy to recognise Lily's tennis achievements in her own community!

Outdoor Ocean put together a campaign #daretodream in collaboration with Paralympics GB, Special Olympics GB & Team GB bringing the 3 events together. The campaign can be seen on virtual screens across the country including in Piccadilly Circus. For the first time ever, athletes from Special Olympics GB, Team GB and Paralympics GB have joined together in a campaign to tackle bias and discrimination. For a must-watch video, click below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

TENNIS AT No.10

Another big moment for Lily when she and Matthew Brough (in photo) and others from the Special Olympics team went to a reception at 10 Downing Street. As it happens Christopher Bradley, son of Veronica Bradley who is a Bedfordshire Tennis Committee member and Inclusion lead, was also there. Christopher won 3 Equestrian gold medals at the Special Olympics.



Well done to LTA colleagues and others from across tennis in Britain who attended a breakfast morning at No 10 to discuss how we continue to strive for greater inclusion, diversity and equity in tennis, in particular enabling participation in all roles and highlighting the stories of those from a diverse ethnic background.

On a LinkedIn post Dave Hardman said "What I found most enjoyable and insightful about the round table was the sharing of powerful stories coming from the communities that we serve. Key word of the day was 'encouragement' - lifting people up that wouldn't necessarily feel that certain spaces in Tennis are for them. I felt very lucky and honoured to be in the presence of some true trailblazers taking tennis to diverse communities."



On 23 June, Akshata Murty, the Prime Minister's wife took part in an LTA Youth Schools session in the garden of No 10. The activities were run by the LTA with children from four CORE Education Trust schools in Birmingham and Oak Wood School in Hillingdon to mark National Sports Week.



THE TENNIS BLACKLIST

Players, coaches and a wide variety of members of the tennis community gathered to celebrate the launch of the inaugural Tennis Black List at the NTC on 29 June. A packed venue created a celebratory atmosphere at the awards which were created to honour tennis role models from the black community, recognising the contribution of individuals and organisations from grassroots level up to the professional game in Britain and internationally. A full report and list of winners can be found on the LTA website by clicking below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



THE CARDIFF BASELINERS

by Simon Clarke



On behalf of Tennis Wales, I was delighted to attend the first ever LGBTQ+ Tournament hosted by Cardiff Baseliners at Cardiff Met University on 16 June. Invitations were sent to clubs across the UK. 20 attended and I had a great chat with club chair Neil Roberts. Neil started the club 18 months ago and they've already got over 50 members. It was great to have TV channels S4C (Heno) and ITV Wales News down, the clip of me chatting away may be on the internet somewhere! Through Tennis Wales's EDI plan, the plan now is to build the LGBTQ+ network north, west and mid to continue building a truly inclusive network for tennis.

It feels an exciting time for Tennis in Wales, and environments like this only serve further open tennis up across the country. Any tips or advice from fellow councillors on building that offer would be greatly appreciated.



NEWS FROM MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY IN CHESHIRE

by Matt Elkington

A great success and the proactive involvement of Cheshire volunteers namely Clive Young and Jayne Grantham was absolutely brilliant. We created 11 new relationships through coaches attending the day and who have trained over the past 12 months. One of them was the Head of the Cheshire Down Syndrome Parent Group who wants to set up 3 different sessions across the County. Great stuff! We even handed out strawberries since it was Men's Finals Day. Read more about it [HERE](#).



CAMBRIDGESHIRE SEND SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

by Julie Wych

On 23 June, Cambridge LTC organised its annual SEND Schools Tournament, with 6 teams from 4 schools and 24 students. The driving force behind the tournament is Kevin Martin, a teacher, and a Level 3 tennis coach, assisted by teachers and volunteers and supported by the County Inclusion Officer. The day started off with some fun warm up exercises, followed by a friendly tournament and finished with some light-hearted games such as zombies, enjoyed by pupils, staff, and volunteers alike. Gretton School won the tournament, and players received certificates, medals, and tennis balls to mark the day. Feedback was hugely positive, "Just wonderful to see so many students enjoying tennis. The atmosphere was really encouraging and the pupils from all the schools were fantastic. Thank you Kevin, and CLTC for your hospitality."

SOME SPECIAL WEEKS FOR KELLY

by John Copsey



Over the past five weeks Lincolnshire chair umpire, Kelly Thomson/Rask has had a busy grass court season.

She was umpiring at Nottingham and then at Edgbaston where she also received her Midlands Official of the Year award, Eastbourne and finally Wimbledon when she was crowned National Official of the year after two years as runner up. Amongst many matches at Wimbledon, she umpired Swiatek v Zhu on day 1 on No 1 Court and the first Ladies semi on Centre between Vondrousova and Svitolina. All very impressive I know, but why special? Well on 18 August, she and husband Christian, a Danish chair umpire, are expecting their first child! That is both impressive and special! We wish them all well for the future.

ESSEX COUNTY AND CLUB FORUM

by Paul Marks

In May, Essex Tennis held a highly successful Essex County & Club Forum, and also used the event to celebrate our 2023 County Award winners. Over 70 attendees from our county volunteer team and clubs attended, with the agenda focused on how we work as a County Association, how we might improve interaction with our Clubs, fostering a 'One Team' approach, and identifying the role that the LTA plays in that. Our speakers/facilitators from our county volunteer team were joined by LTA regional team members. This made the event a special occasion for our award winners, and they presented a fantastic explanation of the support toolkits available. A particularly useful debate was on disability & inclusion and some brilliant ideas came forward to help progress our county plan. Promotion at the forum of the LTA's National Volunteer Week also led to four of our county volunteers being nominated under the national programme, all of whom were absolutely delighted by the calls they received.



SCHOOLS TENNIS IN HERTS

by Bridie Amos

Herts Tennis have been busy supporting the Schools Games Organiser (SGO) network to build tennis skills among teachers and deliver school competitions helping hundreds of kids to access tennis, build their skills or take their first steps in competition. In the Spring we worked alongside our WDP and CDC to promote teacher training at PE Conferences and promoted coaching careers at local schools careers fairs.

Summer activity has focused on tournaments and events. The National Girls Schools tournament in May, now in its 101st year, saw over 80 girls from all over the Southeast, compete in 14U, 16U and 19U doubles events with eventual winners Queenswood, Wycombe House and Sevenoaks. The Nicola Mabbitt Trophy is for less experienced players in years 8, 9 and 10, and is held at Queenswood School in June. Boys and girls had competed in 6 areas to win through to these county finals and a fantastic afternoon of tennis was had by all. Tennis has been buzzing in the primary sector too with red, orange and green ball events running at local clubs around the county. A 'Tennis compete' part of the Herts Schools Games was hosted brilliantly by our Club of the Year Welwyn Tennis Club. Over 40 players took part and tennis leaders from local schools kept control of some very competitive mini red matches! But it's not only competition. The combination of Herts Tennis working with the SGO network, with funding from the LTA Open Court program, is opening up tennis to SEND children, running events at Gosling and Batchwood, where SEND pupils buddy up with classmates to get active and enjoy tennis activities, supported by leaders from local schools. Phew, time to regroup over the school holidays now!

ANTI RACISM IN WALES

by Ellie Reynolds

At Tennis Wales we are working on an anti-racism project funded by the Welsh Government. The project takes LTA SERVES to minority ethnic communities and is part of our anti-racist action plan, opening up tennis in Wales. Twelve new LTA SERVES venues have joined through the initiative and will benefit from weekly activity as well as competition event days throughout the summer, bringing venues together to build the community. We are also funding 15 activators from these venues to become LTA Level 1 Tennis Assistants, welcoming them to our workforce. Arlete, a youth worker for refugees and asylum seekers, said: "I used to watch Wimbledon when I was at school, but I've never played tennis before. I'm really enjoying it and am looking forward to the festival. I'm very grateful and excited for this opportunity that EYST (Ethnic Minority and Youth Support Team) and Tennis Wales have given me." LTA SERVES CYMRU officially launches with a festival on 8 August at Grange Pavilion in Cardiff. We will be joined by special guests – including our Tennis Wales President Amanda Sater – to celebrate the diversity of community tennis.



PADEL NEWS

by Katherine Montague

The padel infrastructure continues to make steady gains with total courts recently hitting the 300 mark. Growth has been a combination of tennis venues and the emergence of standalone padel facilities - in Derby, Bristol and London with more set to open later this year.

We recently took a pop-up padel experience to the British Grand Prix where a record-breaking 480,000 fans attended Silverstone across the four-day event, with the padel experience completely booked out and buzzing with excitement.

LTA graded padel tournaments are increasingly popular with many tournaments oversubscribed. Seniors padel is flourishing, with both men's and women's national teams making a good account of themselves in the European Championships in Spain.

4-6 August will see the NTC again host the FIP London Padel Open which attracts some of the best players across Europe, including the top British players – It's free for spectators, so come and watch the world's fastest growing sport in action.

OXFORDSHIRE SENIORS PADEL UP AT PRE-SEASON EVENT

by Steve Winyard

Recognising an opportunity to build closer relationships between our management committee and team captains, and between the captains themselves, we decided to get out on court! Marking the start of what we intend to be a more regular occurrence, we held a 'Padel and Pimms' event at the recently opened Padel courts at Oxford Sports Tennis Club. A first taste of padel for many of those joining and with a chance to experience some coaching as well as practicing match tactics, it was a great success, starting conversations that have continued in a newly created WhatsApp group. Feedback was very positive with the County's Seniors Organiser saying it was "a magic evening and such fun to catch up with folks I haven't seen for ages". To support the ongoing dialogue, two leads from our management committee are developing a senior captains community and championing a set of "Guiding Principles" to assist captains and players, covering areas such as communication, transparency, selections and practice. You can watch the event [HERE](#).



PADEL COURTS OPEN IN ABERDEEN

by David Lewis

Padel has arrived in the north-east of Scotland after new courts were opened at Aberdeen Tennis Centre. Sport Aberdeen, the charity which operates the facility, received an interest-free loan from the LTA to bring the project to life. A launch event in May was attended by LTA President Sandi Procter, Tennis Scotland Chief Executive Blane Dodds and Sport Aberdeen Chairman Tony Dawson.

At the ceremony, more than 40 guests gathered to browse the courts and watch Sandi and Blane play alongside coaches, while guests were also encouraged to pick up a bat and have a go themselves. Sandi said: "Padel is such a fun and engaging sport and it's wonderful that these courts will provide the Aberdeen community with the chance to play. The LTA and LTA Tennis Foundation were pleased to help fund and facilitate this project to add padel courts to the already successful community indoor tennis centre." Blane added: "Padel will help our tennis clubs and venues across Scotland further engage with their members, attract new members and offer increased options for our local communities". You can read the full story [HERE](#). We also told the story of Karen Crawford, a padel player from Aberdeen who no longer has to travel to Edinburgh thanks to the new courts, read more [HERE](#).



NEW PADEL COURT IN WYE

Under the leadership of Graham Sutherland and active membership, Wye Tennis Club in Kent, always a forward thinking club, have added one padel court to their facilities. It was formally opened on 2 June. A massive 200 + members and local dignitaries turned out on a cool and windy summer evening to hear from Graham about the club journey and the padel court project and from Sandi representing the LTA. Also present were members of the Kent Tennis committee, former Deputy Prime Minister Damian Green who has been a supporter of the club for many years.



SURREY PADEL FESTIVAL & FINALS DAY *by Mark Ayers*

Sunday 21st May saw the culmination of the first ever county run padel league with the Surrey Padel League Festival and Finals Day 2023, hosted at Epsom Lawn Tennis Club. Thirty three teams from eight padel venues in Surrey began their padel league campaign back in January, competing across seven different events. There were two-tiered events for men, women and mixed doubles as well as a Centurion Doubles where the pairing was required to have a combined age of 100+ years.

The Diablo events were intended for players with a player rating of 4.0 and above with the Cobra events for players of a lower rating than 4.0. This was to allow for a greater range of playing ability participation, opening up competitive padel to enthusiastic club players as well as more performance minded players.

LTA President Sandi Procter and Surrey Tennis Chairman Peter Bradshaw were both in attendance, witnessing plenty of fast paced padel from the competing Surrey clubs. The pair were then on hand to present the silver 'bandejas' at the end of a long day. The quality of the padel on show was incredible and coupled with the vast number of spectators and supporters watching, is yet another indication of how far the sport has come in a relatively short space of time. As of May 2023 we are proud to boast a total of 13 different padel venues within Surrey (and with many more on the horizon), which is one of the highest concentration of courts in the Country.



GAME ON: LTA DISABILITY TENNIS PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

'Game On' - The LTA's disability tennis performance pathway guide is a new resource for Counties, venues, and workforce, which articulates the different player pathway journeys for Wheelchair, Learning Disability, Deaf and VI (Visually Impaired) Tennis. You can read the resource by searching "Disability Tennis Performance Pathway" on your browser.



VOLUNTEER AND PARENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

TENNIS PARENTS COMMUNITY *by Kay Gilbert*

As our group reaches 18 months old, it's lovely to see a growth in posts from parents seeking help with the challenges they face and trying to upskill themselves in order to better support their children. Most of the answers and advice are provided by other parents keen to share their experience and expertise in a collaborative and positive way.

Two more live Q&As were held during May & June, focussing on Sports Medicine and Strength & Conditioning; recordings of both are available to members. In September Merlin Van de Braam, the LTA's Head of Coach Development & Support will be answering parents' questions to help them understand coaching qualifications, the role of a tennis coach, and how to build a great player/parent/coach relationship.

TENNIS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY *by Simon Spalter*

First please have a look at the Tennis Volunteer Community newsletter for updates.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Recently, I had the opportunity to speak with Katie Cross about everything Pledgeball and how you can join the league with your club. I'm certainly no expert in the area, but the illustrations of savings that can be made are certainly very interesting.

I also had the opportunity to speak with Andy Catchpole about the new LTA partnership with Tennis-Point and offers for LTA members.

Please watch and share the links and please engage with us and pass on our information.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

DAN MASKELL TENNIS TRUST EVENTS

by Lesley Cundy

For the second year, the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust have held a series of Disability Camps in partnership with the LTA. Numbers increased and feedback was excellent. Each weekend consisted of fun warm up activities for everyone to join in, then there were split into smaller groups for more focussed skills based activities. Coaches were ready to cater for all player needs. On Saturday evening everyone was invited to come together for a meal and a chat, and the coaches provided information about tennis in the UK.

The Wheelchair camp was held at Cardiff Met University and attended by 12 players. The B1 (Blind) camp was held at the National Tennis Centre London and attended by 11 players. Learning Disability was held at West Bridgford Tennis Club and had to have a waiting list due to so much demand! We had 18 players plus one who helped coach in the end due to so many players. The Visually Impaired camp was held at the Northumberland Club with 8 players. A real highlight was Jack Draper joining the Blind Tennis camp for over an hour, giving it a try, talking to players, taking photos and videos. You can check out a short clip [HERE](#).



The Dan Maskell Trust Golf Day in June welcomed 19 teams to the RAC Club in Epsom, raising an impressive £22,000 to support disabled tennis players. The after-golf festivities included the unexpected delights of impromptu ‘performances’ from Jimmy Tarbuck and our own President Elaine Paige. Our master auctioneer, TV and Radio Presenter Marcus Buckland, did his usual sterling job of persuading the audience to part with their money for some wonderful lots in the auction. You can read more [HERE](#). The RAC Club provides a beautiful setting and excellent hospitality, so we hope to return in June 2024. Look out for the date. For more news check out our DMTT summer newsletter [HERE](#).

FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS LTA ACHIEVEMENTS

Check out the LTA Finance and Governance Report and you will know more about the LTA than you do now. Guaranteed. Read [HERE](#).

HIGH RATING FOR LTA SAFEGUARDING

The LTA have once again been awarded the highest possible rating in our annual review undertaken by the NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU). The review team were impressed with the work the LTA had undertaken, particularly in the areas of coach accreditation and the introduction of Young Person's Welfare Ambassadors. The safeguarding team would like to thank every volunteer who has supported in keeping our sport safe across the past year.



YOUNG PERSONS' WELFARE AMBASSADORS *by Jonathon Dawes*

On Monday 24 June, I attended the first in person LTA Young Person's Welfare Ambassador (YPWA) training session at Nottingham Tennis Centre. This exciting pilot has empowered 25 young leaders from all corners of British Tennis to become grassroots trailblazers for promoting safeguarding amongst young people. The day saw a range of off-court activities led by the LTA safeguarding team which provided YPWA's with a platform for making change, while the on court activities delivered by WDPs, Steph Eadon and Josh Dashwood focused on CPD for the young people. Massive thank you to the LTA Safeguarding Team for inviting me to share my journey and discuss the landscape of British tennis for young people.

Please can counties contact your County Safeguarding Officer and find out if you have a YPWA in your county and make contact to show support.



COMING UP

SAFEGUARDING IN TENNIS AWARENESS WEEK

On the week beginning the 2 October 2023 and in support of the NSPCC's 'Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week' 2023, the LTA will be running a Safeguarding in Tennis Awareness Week. Having received feedback around last year's safeguarding conference this year we will be making it easier than ever before to attend a session of interest. We will be hosting a number of workshops throughout the week with topics informed by your valued feedback about areas you would like more information on. The sessions will provide practical tips and examples to support you in your role. The workshops can be attended live to ask questions, but will also be recorded and made available online to watch at a later date for reference and those who cannot attend. All sessions are free to attend online and are offered, but not limited to: coaches, welfare officers, county safeguarding officers, officials, and county and venue committee members. Please do advertise across your counties with sign up available [HERE](#).

DAVIS CUP

In case you don't know, we are hosting one of the finals stage groups in Manchester on 12-17 September. There is plenty of information available and hopefully all you tennis fans are planning to support our GB team and the event. The tennis promises to be spectacular.

There is a document about how counties and organisation can help to make this the best Davis Cup ever and benefit from group discounts and ideas for encouraging your venues, players, coaches and fans to join in. See the County Communications Hub (CCH) - [Smartsheet.com](#) [HERE](#), go to the 'Services Communication' section and download a document called 'Opportunities to support Davis Cup regional finals'



ONE TEAM BULLETIN

NEXT BULLETIN DATES

Deadline: 15 SEPTEMBER
Circulation: 29 SEPTEMBER

IF YOU ARE STILL HERE ON THIS LAST PAGE PLEASE NOTE: I NEED YOUR HELP please can you send me your news pieces as 'oven ready' and sticking to word limits - 200 for a quick news piece and 300 if it is information and really needs 300. And please don't send me hundreds of photos – just 2-3 carefully chosen ones of good quality and send as attachments not embedded in your words. Lewis and I don't have time to research or sort through photos.



BULLETIN SUBMISSION GUIDE

- Word length: max 200 for News from Councillors. 300 for a feature piece.
- In one paragraph not divided up.
- Person: Address Councillors and Colleagues as WE or YOU. Not THEY.
- Ensure relevance for County volunteers. The bulletin is not for club volunteers. You may need to reference what County volunteers do to pass on to others. Avoid including names local to you but irrelevant to readers.
- 'One Team' approach. Remember we work together. Try and include references to this.
- No links to PDFs. If there is a longer document with more information, then it must live somewhere, and a link provided. Consider County Comms Hub as a possible storage place.
- PHOTOS: interesting please, preferably landscape or 2-3 I can make a collage with.
- VIDEOS: only links to LTA website, YouTube, Facebook or Twitter.