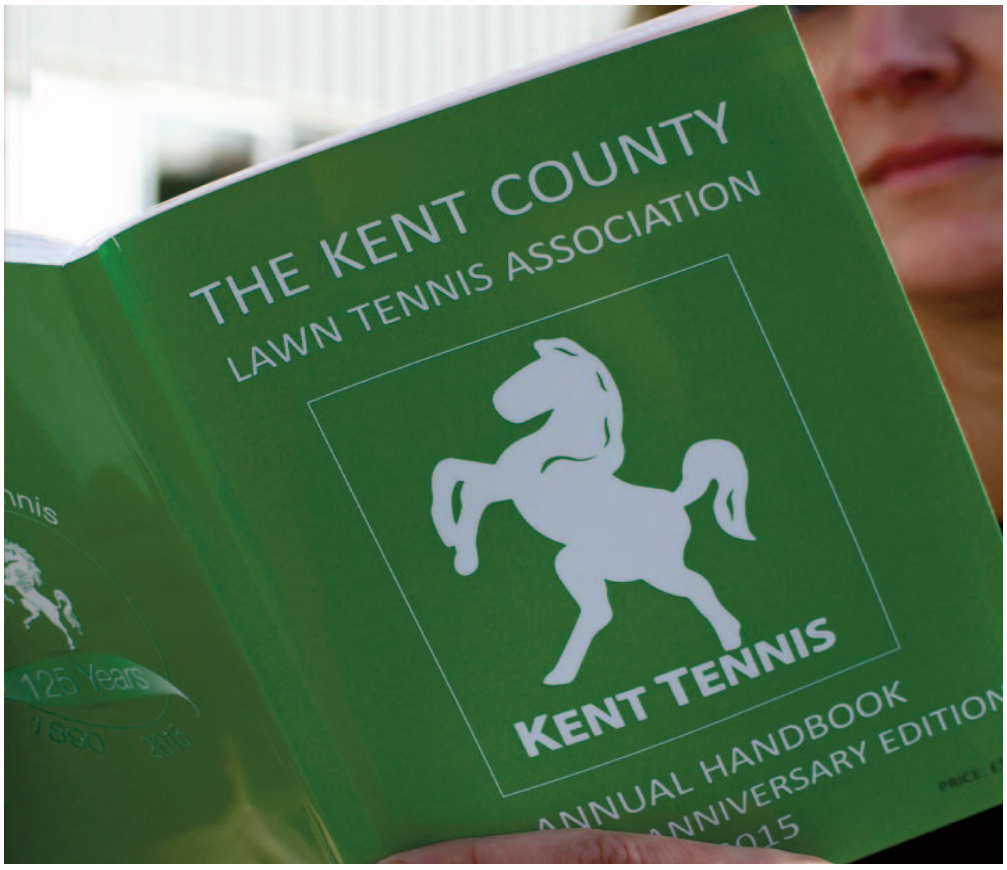

Autumn 2015

Kent Tennis
125 Years
1890 - 2015

KLT
KENT LAWN TENNIS

www.kenttennis.net

KENT TENNIS
Celebrating 125 Years

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LTA BRITISH TENNIS
KENT

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Since 1902

OFFICIAL BALL SUPPLIER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WIMBLEDON

WWW.SLAZENGER.COM

OFFICIAL SUPPLIER

Slazenger

Kent LTA is Celebrating 125 Years

It's 125 Time at Deal

The Deal Indoor Tennis Centre hosted a Kent Tennis 125th Anniversary event during the October half term week. The Kent County LTA was established in 1890 and a number of Anniversary events have been taking place around the County since February.

The event was for teams of four players with ages adding up to circa 125. All doubles. Six teams played in one Round Robin Box for team points and prizes. Players from Broadstairs, Deal ITC, Herne Bay and Walmer Tennis Clubs took part.

It was a successful event enjoyed by all that took part. Everyone that took part received a Kent Tennis memorabilia keyring. The host venue's first team won the event and received a can of balls and a racket grip each. They also received a box of chocolates each for their team ages adding up to 125 on the nose. Close behind them for their teams ages adding up were Walmer with 124 and Herne Bay 126.

After a fun filled day with a lot of tennis the players and spectators were treated to a wonderful buffet courtesy of Lin from 'Your Leisure's Wave Café'.

It was the perfect end to a hugely, successful day and was organised and refereed by Deal ITC's Tennis Coordinator -

Vanessa Webb

Editor's Note

Kent Tennis is nearing the end of its 125th Anniversary year, a year of change, celebration and, I hope, progress.

We have seen new faces in the senior positions within our board and council, other faces taking on new roles. Most clubs are going from strength to strength and keen to develop their aims & ambitions. Our players and teams are competing at all levels firmly showing the rest of the country and indeed the world that Kent Tennis is fantastic to be a part of and to represent.

British Tennis should be proud of their achievements in 2015, at the time of writing, the Great Britain team are busy preparing for an exceptional chance of winning the Davis Cup.

This takes huge amount of hard and selfless work as should be said for all of the endeavour and time that that has been put into the 125 events by all involved; the Board and Council, volunteers, clubs and individuals alike. I am sure, you will all join me in thanking those involved for their sterling efforts.

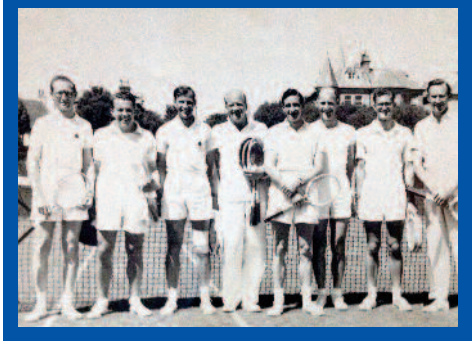
Graham

Kent 125 Player Reunion

Memories were tested as players and parents looked closely at the amazing photo display in the studio at Bromley Tennis Centre during the County Closed. There was an amazing collection of pictures of county team line-ups, trophy presentations and action photos from the last 20 years. The young players at the Closed were mildly amused by seeing pictures of players holding wooden rackets and their coaches when they were only 8 years old. There was also a display of the County Closed t-shirts from 2000 to 2015. The t-shirts have become quite a collector's item over the years.

The Saturday evening barbecue gathering, though spoiled by rain, brought out yet more photos, more laughter and lots of reminiscing and even a knitted cardigan which was once the team uniform of the Kent Ladies team. Austin Smith ceremonially cut a large Kent Tennis cake and with cake and prosecco we all proudly toasted 125 years of Kent Tennis.

Sandi Procter



KENT COUNTY

prince
GRAPHITE PRO 110

prince
prince

Report from the Kent Tennis Board

I look forward to an eventful autumn and winter as we reach the latter stages of our 125th anniversary year.

Our Board meetings over the summer months have been taken up quite a lot with various governance matters, plus activity around Kent clubs with the Great British Tennis Weekend and various competitions. In particular we spent some time looking at how well our Council is operating and ensuring that all the people on the Council have a clear area of focus and responsibility and that there is a good alignment to the Board. This is important in ensuring we have a fully effective Council and people know what is expected of them and once again we are indebted to Roger Bottomley for his advice and guidance.

Another area of focus has been our County club registration (top-up) fee. We had received some strong feedback from some of our smaller clubs as to proportionately how much they are paying and also clubs not fully understanding what the money is used for. Since this is an important source of funds for running our County based activities we felt it was important to make sure it was both clear and fair. We will also be reinforcing, as part of this year's registration process, the important activities that these funds support as well as what clubs will miss out on if they do not register with Kent LTA.

We have a Kent plan which continues to guide our meetings. I'm sure you know, there is a big push by the LTA to increase the number of people playing tennis and as such a number of key initiatives, aimed at both our club and community venues, have been underway. In addition to the GBTW dates there has also been a new facilities funding programme launched and at the moment we are busy working with the LTA team to deliver venue forums for clubs.

The summer is also a big time of year for competitions and we have been especially fortunate to have Harri Izzard back working for us and helping to co-ordinate all the various school and club competitions. Her involvement is invaluable. She has also made sure all our various County teams have everything they need and that the various team captains are well briefed on their duties. We rely heavily on these captains so a big thank you must go to all of them for their efforts.

One of our other priorities this year has been to increase the amount of sponsorship income for the County. This still remains a challenge for us but I am pleased to report that we have managed an overall increase in our sponsorship funding through the acquisition of new sponsors as well as retaining our existing ones. As I write I am pleased to report that Dunlop Slazenger has, in principle, agreed to continue with their support over the next 3 years. But there is still work to do here as our County finances are always under pressure so this will remain a key focus for us as we go into 2016.

I look forward to an eventful autumn and winter as we reach the latter stages of our 125th anniversary year and am particularly pleased to report that the President of the LTA (Cathie Sabin) will be paying our county a visit on 8th November and will officially open the new bubble at the Bromley Tennis Centre and will visit Oakwood and Parklangley Clubs.

Malcolm Smith, Chairman
Board of Management

Please Don't Forget to Register With Kent Tennis and The LTA

As you may know, the process by which clubs register with the LTA and with Kent Tennis started on 1 October 2015. The deadline for payment is 11 December. Kent Tennis has issued an invoice to each club before the end of this month – so you can pay your LTA Registration fee and the county fee together – preferably using an online transfer facility. Details of the fees payable are sent on the invoice which is specific to your club. Please then ignore the invoice you may generate as part of the online registration process.

We would like all clubs and venues that register with the LTA to additionally register with Kent Tennis. We would certainly expect all clubs and organisations that enter teams in competitions run or managed by Kent Tennis – such as Kent Inter Club League, Schools Competitions, Winter Junior leagues and the County Championships etc - to register with your county association.

The county fee paid to Kent Tennis helps to fund all the support and organisation that underpins tennis in the county – including all these competitions. It also allows us to provide a range of benefits to registered clubs, and it might help to set them out for you and your members.

a. Interest free loans – up to £10,000 from county funds.
b. Additional tickets for Wimbledon from the county allocation.
c. Annual Awards and recognition for clubs, players and volunteers.
d. Annual dinner for the presentation of awards.
e. An invitation to the AGM.
f. The services of a club representative, who can keep you updated and put forward your thoughts to the Kent Tennis Council.
g. The KLT magazine – printed twice each year with free copies to every club in Kent. Also every club has an opportunity to submit articles.
h. Paid support staff for volunteers – we have 2 part-time staff who provide their services to everyone within Kent Tennis, one way or another. Despite the many hours put in by volunteers there is still too much to do these two ladies are much needed.
j. County Championships T-shirts, programme and trophies. These are paid for by extra Kent funds to enhance the championships experience.
k. Special events eg: in 2015 the various events to celebrate 125 years.

Whether or not your club or organisation has paid the county fee and registered with Kent Tennis in the past, we would certainly urge you to do so now. Whilst you may not utilise or enjoy all, or any, of the benefits listed above, I hope you can see that it is difficult - and unfair - to differentiate between clubs that pay and clubs that don't. It is quite possible that, in the near future, only clubs paying their fees to the county will be able to enter the competitions that we run.

Nigel Jordan, Treasurer
Kent Tennis

Kent Supporters Club

On the right hand page are some of our 700+ Kent Supporters enjoying a lovely sunny day at Wimbledon this year...

But who is this in the photo above? It's Rosemary Lee sorting out this year's Wimbledon Ballot and looking very fraught!

Can you help her? Yes you can, by just following these simple instructions:

1 Read very thoroughly the letters/emails that she sends out so that she doesn't have to answer a myriad of queries which are covered in her correspondence.

2 Get your ballot form back as soon as possible.

3 Pay for your tickets as soon as you know what you have drawn.

4 Remember to send Rosemary a stamped addressed envelope so that she can send you your tickets.

Simple, isn't it.

Rosemary relaxing with a glass of wine...
Now That's Better

KENT TENNIS SUPPORTERS CLUB

Players and Fans 9+ - Support the Game You Love

What is the Kent Tennis Supporters Club?
Kent Tennis is the governing body for tennis in Kent for clubs, players, schools and community venues. Founded in 1890, we are 125 years old in 2015, and we are launching the Kent Tennis Supporters Club (previously the Associate Membership Scheme)

Membership is open to players and fans aged 9 years plus.

The benefits:
Free British Tennis Membership (BTM) worth £25
KLT Newsletter by email
Annual Calendar of Kent Tennis Events and invitation to special events
Invitation to Kent Tennis AGM

Silver Supporters	Gold Supporters
£17	£25
Entry to an exclusive Wimbledon ticket ballot for Court 2 and Court 3 tickets.	Entry to an exclusive Wimbledon ticket ballot for Centre Court & Court 1 tickets.

Dear Rosemary

I'm writing on behalf of my mother, Betty Throssell, for whom you organised those fantastic seats at Wimbledon last Tuesday. We saw the M Sharapova v C Vandeweghe match and then S Williams v V Azarenka. It was the closest we have ever been to the players and it made the atmosphere even more exciting. I can't thank you enough for the tickets, the location made getting to and from our seats so much easier, you've made my mums year.

I've attached a photo, hope its suitable.

Thank you again

Sara & Betty

Rosie

I know how hard you work to organise the tickets etc... A big thank you and your hard work did make for some life-time memories. The photo is of Leslie, Lauren and Katie on Centre on Saturday watching an enthralling ladies doubles.

All the very best

Paul

Wimbledon Ballot BTM - Opt In Now Open

Want to be part of The Championships next year? As a member of a tennis club you get free BTM, which includes entry into the clubs Wimbledon Ballot draw, all you need to do is opt in, to let them know that you are interested.

The Championships,
Wimbledon 2016
27 June - 10 July 2016

Opting in is simple, you just need to log into your BTM account on the LTA website:
https://www2.lta.org.uk/Login/

If you don't want to attend The Championships next year, you can Opt Out.

BTM Wimbledon Ballot is open until Friday 19 February 2016 for existing BTMs. Alternatively you can call the LTA 020 8487 7000 option 1.

Funding and Building the New Courts

Following the approval by the membership in 2011 to replace Hythe Lawn Tennis Club's last remaining four grass courts there began the process of obtaining the funding!

Originally it was hoped that we could construct the four hard courts, install the new extended floodlighting and also convert the existing 4 hard courts to synthetic clay all at the same time but it soon became apparent that the funding was not to be forthcoming for this and a second plan evolved whereby the 4 grass courts would be replaced by all weather macadam and the floodlighting would be installed and the conversion to synthetic clay would have to take place at a later date when funding became available.

The Club had refusal after refusal for funding and it looked at one point that the whole project would be dead in the water but the Clubs Chairman, not known for accepting defeat, e-mailed every member of the LTA Executive Committee from Roger Draper down demanding that the application be looked at again and also demanding a full explanation of why funding had been refused.

Expecting to be brushed off the Chairman was surprised with telephone calls and e-mails from almost all members supporting a re-evaluation and this resulted in a meeting in Roehampton and finally an offer of a loan from both the LTA and Kent LTA. Armed with this arrangement it was then possible to obtain further funding and by the early summer of 2013 it was clear that the work could proceed.

Full planning permission had previously been obtained and the chosen contractors Chiltern Sports and Luminance Pro both agreed that work would commence on September 29th 2013. The day prior to this the last ever match was played on the grass and in glorious sunshine a party was held to say farewell and many members turned up to dig up a section of the grass as a souvenir which was lovely to see.

I think we all underestimated the amount of large machinery that would be coming onto the site with the removal of 40cm of topsoil across the whole area which resulted in a total of over 80 Forty ton lorry journeys and that's to just take soil away not to deliver any new material!

In the midst of all this the existing four courts were used extensively every day but with the car park being slowly devoured by mud and muck

Far Left: Day 1
Below: Day 2
Left : Let There be Light

we depended upon members agreeing to park away from the Club and walk to tennis which they all did without complaint or even a grumble.

Slowly but surely everything came together and the members got to know the workforce very well with them regularly turning up with sandwiches, doughnuts and even beer for the evenings for them! Such was the goodwill between Chiltern Sports and the membership that when we asked if they would like to have a collection for the guys a total of £450 was raised in less than a week as a token of our gratitude.

Once the surface was down it was the turn of Luminace Pro to install the columns and the lamps. Unfortunately by then the weather had broken and they had non stop rain but worked brilliantly.

The whole project was completed within 5 weeks which is considerably less than the original timetable of 6-8 weeks and the only thing that remains to do now is the final surface colour of shades of green to match the existing courts and this will be done as soon as the weather warms up in the Spring.

The official opening is being organised for May 18th. The whole process was brilliant once we had the funding in place and we are forever grateful to the wonderful contractors that we employed as they daily went above and beyond their remit to ensure that the new facilities are everything that we had hoped for.

Hilary Casey
Chairman

President's Visit to Kent

Cathie Sabin:
Officially opened the bubble and presented prizes to the tiebreak shoot out winners (Right)
At Oakwood, presented the trophy with past chairman Martin Collier (Below) and Presenting (Bottom)

Cathie Sabin, LTA President, had a great day ay in Kent on Sunday 8 November. After an early morning tour of Parklangley with manager Tony Beddoe, Cathie went on to Oakwood with John and Caroline Ratcliffe.

Oakwood's Gavin Nelson said of Cathie's visit 'Oakwood were so excited to hear about the intended visit from the LTA President Cathie Sabin. We prepared a PowerPoint presentation for her to explain what Oakwood is all about and our plans for the future. We ran a Generations Tournament and Cathie presented the trophy with past chairman Martin Collier. During the visit Cathie, John and Caroline were treated to bacon butties and chatted to the members, parents and juniors about the work that Oakwood are doing in terms of club improvements, working with local schools, and also the junior coaching programme which is currently thriving and bringing many children to Oakwood to play and get involved. She has asked to be invited back to see the new courts we are planning. And of course she will be more than welcome to do so'.

Cathie moved on to the Bromley Tennis Centre where she watched the community festival, officially opened the bubble and presented prizes to the tiebreak shoot out winners.

Cathie said of her visit to Kent 'I saw a real cross section yesterday, Parklangley, Oakwood and then Bromley and all I met was enthusiasm, passion and a lot of hard work working people. You have a great team of volunteers and colleagues in Kent and are clearly making the most of all their skills, a delight to see. Thank you for letting me be part of a great day'

Sandi Procter

British Tennis 'Coach of the Year' Honours

Chris Howard, Community Coach of the Year, receiving his award from Greg Rudeski.

Alastair Filmer, Performance Coach of the Year receiving his award.

Chris Howard of Ladywell Fields and Alastair Filmer of Bromley Tennis Centre were awarded British Tennis Coach of the Year Awards at the National Coaches Conference in June at the National Tennis Centre.

Chris was honoured as Community Coach or the Year. At Ladywell Fields in Lewisham he has provided free tennis to over 640 primary and 260 secondary school children since April 2013 through working with multiple partners and organisations. He has increased participation from 70 to 200 through Tennis Tuesdays, Tennis Xpress and Cardio Tennis and as part of May's GBTW, he had over 170 people play tennis in 3 hours which means their weekly classes are now full.

Alastair was honoured as Performance Coach of the Year. He coaches Anton Matusevich who won Bolton's Teen Tennis and was the first Brit to do so since Andy Murray, Emma Raducanu who came 5th in the Orange bowl, and was selected for the GB 12U Summer Cup team in 2014, and Nell Miller who is the first player born 2000 or later to win a British Tour.

STOP PRESS:

In early November it was announced that Chris is also the Overall Coach of the Year and will be presented with his award at the ATP Finals at the O2.
Well done Chris.
Amazing.

British Tennis County Cup Race

COUNTY	18 & Under				14 & Under				12 & Under				10 & Under				9 & Under	Summer				Winter				TOTAL POINTS
	B		G		B		G		B		G		B		G			M		W		M		W		
	BP	GP	BP	GP	QP	FP	QP	FP	QP	FP	QP	FP	QP	FP	QP	FP		BP	GP	BP	GP	BP	GP	BP	GP	
Surrey	7	6	10	8	6	0	8	10	8	10	8	6	5	0	8	5	6	10	12	10	15					158
Middlesex	7	8	10	6	8	10	8	7	8	7	7	0	8	2	7	0	5	6	15	7	10					146
Warwickshire	10	8	7	6	8	6	7	0	7	0	8	2	8	10	7	0	10	4	12	10	10					140
Yorkshire	10	6	10	4	8	4	7	0	7	0	7	0	8	4	8	7	10	7	10	6	15					138
Lancashire	6	4	6	6	7	0	8	4	6	0	8	10	7	0	7	0	10	10	4	10	8					121
Kent	7	8	10	2	7	0	8	6	6	0	4	0	7	0	7	0	10	10	8	7	12					119
Hertfordshire	10	4	7	4	7	0	7	0	7	0	8	5	8	1	6	0	10	10	10	10	4					118
South Wales	6	8	6	8	8	5	6	0	7	0	5	0	8	3	7	0	6	7	12	5	10					117
Cambridgeshire	6	6	7	8	6	0	7	0	7	0	8	4	7	0	5	0	10	7	4	4	15					111
Essex	7	2	7	2	8	7	7	0	8	5	7	0	7	0	6	0	4	7	15	7	4					110
Dorset	7	6	5	8	8	2	7	0	7	0	5	0	5	0	6	0	6	4	15	3	12					106
Wiltshire	4	8	5	2	4	0	6	0	8	2	8	7	4	0	7	0	10	2	15	2	12					106
Buckinghamshire	7	4	7	2	7	0	8	5	6	0	5	0	3	0	4	0	6	3	15	10	12					104
Cheshire	7	4	7	8	6	0	7	0	8	6	6	0	5	0	6	0	5	6	8	7	8					104
Leicestershire	7	2	4	8	6	0	4	0	8	3	6	0	7	0	8	3	10	6	6	6	10					104
Scotland - North	5	6	6	4	7	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	8	5	6	0	10	5	15	5	6					102
Derbyshire	4	6	6	4	6	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	6	0	5	0	6	10	15	3	15					100
Hampshire & IOW	5	6	7	4	7	0	8	2	4	0	6	0	8	7	4	0	4	7	8	7	6					100
Avon	3	8	5	4	7	0	8	3	7	0	5	0	8	6	8	1	10	2	2	6	6					99
Berkshire	4	8	5	2	7	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	6	0	8	4	5	6	10	6	12					97
Staffordshire	4	4	6	8	5	0	4	0	4	0	8	1	5	0	8	10	4	3	10	3	10					97
Scotland - West	5	8	4	4	6	0	5	0	8	4	7	0	6	0	8	2	6	5	4	5	4					91
Sussex	10	2	7	6	8	3	8	1	5	0	7	0	4	0	5	0	4	5	6	6	4					91
Norfolk	4	6	5	4	4	0	7	0	6	0	4	0	5	0	4	0	5	7	6	7	15					89
Suffolk	6	6	3	6	6	0	6	0	5	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	6	10	6	2	8					89
Lincolnshire	6	8	4	2	5	0	5	0	5	0	4	0	6	0	5	0	4	5	12	5	12					88
Durham & Cleveland	3	8	6	2	5	0	6	0	4	0	5	0	7	0	7	0	4	4	8	4	12					85
North Wales	3	4	3	8	4	0	6	0	6	0	7	0	7	0	5	0	4	5	10	5	8					85
Devon	6	2	6	6	3	0	5	0	6	0	4	0	7	0	5	0	5	4	10	4	10					83
Gloucestershire	5	8	5	6	5	0	5	0	5	0	7	0	5	0	6	0	5	4	4	4	6					80
Hereford & Worcester	5	4	4	6	5	0	6	0	5	0	6	0	6	0	6	0	6	3	6	2	10					80

Kent 6th in British Tennis County Cup Race

Kent is placed 6th in the inaugural British Tennis County Cup Race. Starting in March 18&U and ending with men's and ladies winter events in November, all County Cup events from 9&U to men's and ladies, results count towards the Race. Base points are awarded for the group level and additional points for their group position. The county with the most points across all events is the winner.

With the winter men's and ladies events yet to come, Kent is placed 6th which is very reputable with our most successful teams as the 9&U boys and girls and the ladies team. Surrey is way out in the lead and will win it this year. Great optimism Kent can improve our position next year.

Sandi Procter

Kent Ladies Aegon Summer County Cup

Day 1, v Essex:

After fond memories in Cromer 2 years ago with promotion to division 1, we were hoping for another successful trip! After a good hit on the grass on Sunday evening, we were allset. Having played Essex many times before and beaten them we were feeling confident. Jacq and Flo at 3, Kate and Nell at 2, and Sarah Cantlay and myself at 1. Sarah and I found ourselves 4-1 down in about 5 minutes - a usual for us! But we got it together and won. With Nell making her debut to County Week, and a few screams from Essex of "this girl doesn't miss" aimed at Nell, they took down Essex no.1 pair in 3 sets. Jacq and Flo lost a close battle. 2-1 Kent. The next round took us to a 4-2 lead, with Sarah and myself losing to the no.1 pair. One more match would get us the win. Kate & Nell won pretty quick to get us to 5 rubbers, with Kent winning 6-3. Great to start the week off with a win! Kent 6 Essex 3.

Day 2, v Norfolk:

Having beaten Norfolk in Cromer 2 years ago with a 5-4 win we knew this would be a difficult day. With our team the same as day 1, Kate and Nell started against Norfolk's no.1 pair, a pair that play doubles together regularly and it showed, taking a 6-2, 6-2 loss. Sarah and I kept it simple and won 6-3 6-1, Flo and Jacq lost in a close 3 set match. 2-1 Norfolk. The next round was tough, Sarah and I losing easily to the no.1 pair and

Ladies Aegon Summer County Cup

Team:
Holly Richards – Captain
Jacqueline Darby - As't Captain
Sarah Cantlay, Kate Green
Rachel Lecomber
Sarah Wray, Florence Abbott
Natasha Munday & Nell Miller

Flo and Jacq also losing, 4-1 Norfolk. A great effort from Nell and Kate to win 6-4 in the third kept us in it. At 4-2 down we knew a comeback would be a big ask so we fought for as many games and sets as we could, but unfortunately finished the day down. Kent 3 Norfolk 6

Day 3, v Hampshire
After 2 days of sunshine and sunburn we were quite pleased to see a few clouds! Hampshire looks beatable, but they had a solid no.1 pair. Once again Kate and Nell got off to a flying start beating the no.1 pair in straight sets! Sarah and I won and we watched on Flo and Jacq in a third set, knowing that a 3-0 start would be brilliant! Great effort from them to win from a set down. 3-0 Kent! Sarah and I lost our next match but the other 2 pairs won, putting us 5-1 up, which was surprising considering Flo got a fly in her eye and couldn't see through one eye the whole match! Then came the rain, we waited for it to stop but decided finishing the next day was best, so we took a trip to Cromer hospital to get the fly out of Flo's eye! 4 matches in one day was looking daunting, but with Kent already at 5 rubbers and a win we were pretty pleased! An early start on Thursday to complete matches got us a 6-3 win, ready to take on Middlesex! Kent 6 Hampshire 3.

Day 4, v Middlesex
On paper this looked like our toughest day, with some very strong juniors on the Middlesex team. Sarah and I had a tough match against Middlesex 2nd pair but we played a good match and won. Kate and Flo were playing Middlesex first pair who were playing some very good doubles, and we couldn't quite pull through. Sarah Wray and Rachel got off to a slow start losing the first but came back in style and won in three sets. Kent 2-1 up! The next round was a tough one and looked like we needed to get one of the next 3 matches to go into the last round of matches 3-3. Sarah and Rachel put on another outstanding performance to get us a win, having lost the other 2 matches we were now 3-3. Sarah and I started our last match a bit tight, Sarah and Rachel lost, and Kate and Flo won, so returning at a set and 5-3 up my arms felt like bricks! Sarah and I came through a very nervy match to beat Middlesex 5-4! A great fight from all the girls and a well deserved win. Kent 5 Middlesex 4.

Day 5, v Cheshire
On a high after beating Middlesex, and checking the standings online, Kent and Cheshire both had the same amount of rubbers, we were all pretty nervous knowing we needing a win against Cheshire to go up to Div 1. With the weather looking horrendous we were all aware that we may only get one round complete for the day. With an injury to Jacqueline's leg, Sarah Wray and Rach stepped up and delivered a solid performance to put us 1-0 up, Sarah and I had a tough match losing in straight sets. With the rain setting in, Kate and Flo took a win putting us 2-1 up! Good start! We headed back out for the next round, all aware we would probably not finish. Half way through the first set we all stopped...and did a rain dance hoping for more rain, at 2-1 up this would take us to Division 1! Waiting anxiously for a decision, the referee decided there would be no more play for the day! A big thank you to all the girls for another great year! Eastbourne we are coming for you! Kent 2 Cheshire 1 (rain stopped play) and Promotion.

Men's Aegon Summer County Cup

Team:
Andy 'Captain Burgs' Burgoyne
Sean 'Thorners' Thornley
Lewis 'The Model' Burton
Rob 'The Pearl' Searle
Alastair 'Ninja Hands' Filmer
Thomas 'Fastest Man in Kent' Wright
Paddy 'Polish Internet' Koscielski
Matt 'Anyone Want a Hit' Summers

But 12 months ago the men of Kent were crowned champions on the hallowed ground of Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Back to defend their title and looking to break Kent history and win back to back titles, the men of the Garden of England rolled in to town with hopes high. The squad was strong, but there were some notable absences. Matt Short was in Portugal and unavailable for battle, we would miss his big forehand, but more than that we would miss his enormously loud voice shouting 'Only in the garden'. Francis Sargeant partnered Matt last year and he was in the US preparing for his wedding day, we would miss his awesome consistency and his calm demeanour. So as we always do at this time we looked to the East, but alas there was no Jim 'Gandalf' May this year either, as he was busy fighting battles in middle earth. The absences grew, but in Kent there are always mighty men ready to fight.

Day 1 vs Hertfordshire
We lined up with Lewis&Rob, Sean&Andy and Tom&Paddy. Always a difficult tie and our toughest match last year, Herts were also a few players short, but as we prepared for battle the clouds opened and the rain fell for most of the morning. We started at 1.30pm playing a shortened format of a 10 point tiebreak for the third set if required and aside from Lewis and Rob who made light work of their opener, nothing went Kent's way and we went in 2-1 down after the first round. Round two saw our fortunes pick up and in very tricky, wet, slippery conditions we levelled the tie at 3-3 and had all of the momentum. Herts didn't want to play on, but we did and a heavy discussion started with the referee. Captain Burgs came out on top and we were set to go back on when the heavens opened again and tennis was over for the day. After food and sleep we returned to the courts to resume the tie. Sadly all momentum had gone and the Hertfordshire men took full advantage winning all three matches in the last round to end the tie. A bad start to the campaign, but we could still do retain the title if we could win the rest of the week. - Hertfordshire 6 - Kent 3

Day 2 vs Lancashire
With the day one performance not quite what we were looking for 'Captain Burgs' shuffled the pack and dealt up a new line up of Rob&Sean, Lewis&Tom and Andy&Alastair. We looked very strong in the opening exchanges, but somehow ended up 2-1 down at lunch. We were sure that we would do better in round 2, perhaps too sure as we lost all the close matches and at tea were nearly down and out. We had a team meeting across the road when two things changed the course of the day. Sean Thornley said 'Just Imagine….Just Imagine if we did win all three', then, as we returned to the court, Caroline Burton, Mother of 'The Model' produced a homemade banana cake for us all. All eating a piece, we headed to the courts. I'm not sure what was in that cake, but we were stronger, better and ready to fight. All the matches were close, but about an hour and a half later 'Captain Burgs' and 'ninja hands' Filmer were in a third set tie break. The Lancs men hit it as hard as they could at the ninja, but his hands were too fast. Next thing I remember was the sounds of John Lennon's imagine playing on Filmer's stereo and the men of Kent huddling in the foreground with the dejected men of Lancashire looking at the ground behind. We had done it, a come from behind victory. Elsewhere results had gone our way and we were in the running to win it again if we continued to win. - Kent 5 - Lancashire 4

Day 3 vs Derbyshire
After yesterday's miracle of the banana cake, Captain Burgs yet again shuffled the team in preparation to play an unbeaten Derby. Sean&Alastair, Rob&Burgs and Tom&Lewis. A strong start would see the old school partnership of Rob and Andy winning in straight sets to give us the lead. Meanwhile Filmer and Sean were on fire and already a set up, Lewis and Tom were struggling but fighting. Then from nowhere Filmer and Sean were beaten as were Lewis and Tom. We looked better, but we were down again! After lunch we resumed the fight and it was a reverse of the morning with 'Captain Burgs' and Rob 'The Pearl' Searle being smoked in straight sets. As the sun was beating down Alastair and Sean struck in clinical fashion to get us just one behind.

Meanwhile Lewis and Tom were in the limelight and when all seemed lost they pulled back from a set and a break down with some outstanding tennis. Lewis lapped up the crowd, as did Tom, the more they clapped the better they played, and they clapped a lot. We went in to tea 3-3. Sean and Alastair couldn't keep it up in round three and sadly took a loss to put us behind 3-4. Lewis and Tom smashed through the Derby third pair and we were at 4-4. If we would win this we would be borderline favourites to take the title, could we do it? Rob and Andy came back from a set behind to level there match in what was a rollercoaster ride of a match. In the end the Derby pair had too much on the day and Kent were to lose by a single rubber. - Derbyshire 5 - Kent 4

Day 4 vs Suffolk

In what had been an incredibly tight competition thus far the men of Kent had moved from nearly winning the week to needing a win quickly to avoid relegation! We were on the courts at the bottom of Devonshire park, where we were last time we were relegated thought Captain Burgs as we warmed up for day four. Captain quite badly injured, Rob Searle with a very sore knee we needed a decent start as nothing else would do. We huddled together and The Captain reminded the troops what was at stake and the brothers in arms chanted together to start the days play. Searle back with Burton, Thorners with Wright and Filmer with the injured Burgs. Boom, Wright and Thorners on it from the start, 1-0 Kent. Filmer and Burgoyne a set up, Burton and Searle tight on the end. Burgs and the Ninja went down in three tight sets from nowhere and it was down to Burton and Searle. It was so very close when the youngest member of the Suffolk team made a grave mistake that would change the day. He gave a very poor line call in front of everyone's eyes, Captain Burgs was incensed and the Captains exchanged words, but meanwhile this has awoken the fire within Lewis Burton and he dominated proceedings from then on. The Suffolk pair wilted under the pressure of the Burtons fire and the heavy stare of Captain Burgs, Kent were in the lead 2-1. Round two would be tough but came down to Alastair and Andy as the other matches were split. Andy could barely walk as they struggled from a set down, but somehow levelled the match. Many an Ibuprofen and years of County week experience between them Filmer and Burgoyne refused to submit and ended up in a third set tie break, BOOM, 'Only happens in the garden!' and Kent were 4-2 up. Round three was a step too far for Captain 'Burgs' and Filmer who had given everything in round two, but the Sean, Tom, Rob and Lewis were too strong and took Kent to a well-earned victory.
Kent 6 - Suffolk 3

Day 5 vs Surrey

There were many permutations left for Kent and Surrey, but as the rain fell on Devonshire Park it was clear that the Suffolk vs Derby match would undoubtedly settle the outcomes for us. If Suffolk could beat the odds and defeat the unbeaten Derby, Kent could go down and Surrey would be champions, but if Derby won, Suffolk would go down, Kent would be safe and Surrey would be runners up. It was a disappointing end to a great week as we didn't have enough left in the tank to compete properly with Surrey and were easily 5-1 down after two rounds of tennis played in dangerous slippery conditions. The highlight of the day was the debut of Matt Summers who had been a patient supporter all week. He started his debut well and showed us what a bright prospect he is for the future. The day ended early as the rain got heavier and heavier which meant that the men of Kent remained in division 1 as Derby were crowned Champions. - Surrey 2- Kent 1
(only all rounds completed by all teams counted)

Summary

The men of Kent fought hard and were as close to winning again as they were to being demoted. We missed our absent players, but it allowed others to show their skills which will be needed in the future. We showed great spirit as always, and everyone contributed to the team, both on and off the court. Thanks to all the supporters who took the journey down to Eastbourne to cheer us on, we look forward to seeing you there again next year.

U14 Girls County Cup 2015

Team:
Phoebe Watton
Sasha Hill
Summer Reeves
Susanna Skarlosh
Abby Taylor
Tiegan Aitken

1st match: Kent girls took on the West of Scotland knowing not much about our opponents, we took to the court eager to get off to a strong start. Tiegan Aitken and Abby Taylor duely delivered dropping only 2 games between them, a very good start for Kent. Looking to continue our momentum Phoebe Watton and Sasha Hill kicked off their first matches of the weekend at no.2 and no.1 respectively and dispatched their opponents with the minimum of fuss. At no.2 doubles Summer Reeves and Susanna Skarlosh were making their debuts for the under 14's team, starting off slightly nervous the girls got off to a slow start. Despite improving their level throughout the match the girls lost a close 1st match. Abby Taylor and Tiegan Aitken proved themselves to be a very good doubles pair winning 0 & 0 at no.1 pair.

2nd match: With the round robin group being played over just 2 days it meant that we would play the doubles rubbers against Northumberland onthe same day. A very focused performance at no.1 doubles from Sasha & Phoebe and from Abby & Tiegan at no.2 led to both winning comfortably in straight sets. Singles followed the next morning and the Kent girls picked up where they left off the previous evening, racing through all 4 singles matches with ease.

3rd match: As the Kent girls topped the round robin group we would now be playing Cheshire in a knockout match that would decide who qualified for the national finals. It would be important to get off to a good start and Tiegan at no.3 delivered that perfectly with a 6-1 6-1 victory and an ultra disciplined display. Abby Taylor was made to work slightly harder at no.4 but prevailed 6-3 6-2 with too much grit for her opponent. With the match well in favour of Kent now, we had the opportunity to finish the match with just the singles matches. The job was left to Phoebe Watton and Sasha Hill, Sasha demolished her opponent as she had been doing all weekend in under an hour to make the score 3-0 to Kent. Phoebe played a pretty nervous 1st set against her younger opponent conceding it 7-5, but once Phoebe settled down in to her rhythm she performed to her normal level and won the next two sets 6-1 6-1 to put Kent through to the national finals in Nottingham.

National Finals

We were drawn in the round robin stages against Lancashire, Hampshire & IoW and Surrey, which on paper was the tougher of the two groups.

So our campaign started off against Lancashire, Tiegan Aitken got the first rubber on the board with an aggressive 6-0 6-1 victory to set the tone for the match. At no.4 Abby Taylor showed extraordinary battling qualities to prevail in a 3rd set tie-break against a very feisty opponent. While that match was going on Phoebe Watton was making a habit of losing the 1st set only to come on strong and win the next two to give Kent a 3-0 lead. Then came Sasha Hill at no.1 who continued her unbeaten run to calmly dispose of her opponent, giving us an unassailable 4-0 advantage.

Second up for Kent was Hampshire&IoW, yet again Abby showed her battling qualities and outlasted her opponent in a long 3 set battle winning 6-2 in the 3rd. Due to an injury to Tiegan we had to alter our line-up, so we called upon Summer Reeves to make her debut in the finals. Summer wasn't affected at all by playing her 1st match at the finals delivering a 6-1 6-1 win at no.4 for the team. Phoebe Watton playing at 2 delivered an accomplished performance to make it 3-0, with just Sasha to play. Sash was up against the no.1 player in the country and despite a tough fight fell in straight sets which meant it would be down to the doubles. Both Sasha & Summer and Phoebe & Abby won in routine fashion to give Kent the 5-1 victory leaving everything to play for in the final group match.

The last group match was against Surrey and was going to be very tough! It started very closely with the 1st 2 singles matches being split to make it 1-1, Summer going down to a strong opponent whilst Abby continued her run of winning long 3 setters. Phoebe was next up and with her big county cup experience gave Kent an important 2-1 lead, playing very well at an important stage of the match. Despite Sasha playing some incredibly good tennis she lost a heart breaking 7-6 6-7 6-3 defeat which couldn't have been any closer, but a great effort nonetheless. Doubles proved to be very tense, Surrey no.2 pair played extremely well to make it 3-2 to them but the experienced partnership of Sasha & Phoebe proved too much for their opponents to level it up at 3-3, meaning the match would be decided by a tie-break shoot out. We went with Sasha & Abby to try and get the job done, unfortunately the Surrey pair started very well and the girls could never quite catch up losing 10-7.

Obviously a very tough way to lose out in such an important match but definitely no shame in losing a match which could not have been closer against a very good Surrey team.Being as professional as the girls are they regrouped and went out on a winning display beating Buckinghamshire 5-1 to finish 3rd in the country.

Well done to Sasha, Phoebe, Tiegan, Abby, Summer and Sussana who all competed admirably over the 2 long weekends and did Kent proud once again. Lastly, thank you to Nicole and Holly for being great captains to work with.

James "Chippy" Langford
Team Captain

U14 Boys County Cup 2015 Qualifying

Team:
Michael Owen
Harvey Conway
Ben Phan
Martin Thomas
Keean De Villiers
Rory Grant

Saturday 2nd May
Kent v North Wales
1. Phan and De Villiers
2. Thomas and Grant

Due to bad weather play was held up until lunchtime and played on only a few indoor courts initially. The matches were reduced to short sets as a busy day was ahead. Martin and Ben got us off to the best of starts winning in straight sets. 2-0 Kent. Harvey and Michael followed suit and continued the pattern of everyone recording one love set each. 4-0 Kent. The doubles saw an opportunity to give both Keean and Rory a chance to contribute to the efforts of the team. Rory and Martin fought hard to win in two tie break sets, but unfortunately Ben and Keean came up against a tough pair and went down 4-1 5-4. 5-1 Kent

Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd May
Kent v West of Scotland
1. Phan and Owen
2. Thomas and Conway

Due to the format of 6 counties it meant that we had to play the doubles of the next match on Saturday. Martin and Harvey played a great match to win 2&2, whilst Ben and Michael were in a battle at 4-5(7) 3-3 when they had to stop for the day. Coming back to finish the doubles early the next morning didn't pay off for us as they lost in another tie break. 1-1. Martin put in the type of performance you want when the match is tightly poised winning in solid fashion. Ben had a slightly trickier opponent but came through 4-1 4-2. 3-1 Kent. By this time play had started on the outside courts for the first time with Harvey and Michael both on. Harvey fought hard to force his match into a match tie break but just came up short, but Michael composed himself after a second set wobble and won his 10-2! 4-2 Kent

Monday 4th May
Kent v South Wales
1. Phan and Thomas
2. De Villiers and Grant

We knew that it would be a very competitive match against South of Wales as we have had battles with them over the past few years. Nevertheless we were confident that if the boys performed as they can we would be victorious. Martin got us off to the best start winning his first set 6-1 and moving a break up in the 2nd. Ben however was struggling to find his game and fell a set behind. Over the next hour or so the match was to turn on its head as Martin found himself in a titanic 3rd set battle and Ben was unfortunately unable to find his form and lost in straight sets. Harvey started his match as Martin was nearing the end of his, disappointingly despite battling hard Martin was unable to get the much needed win and went down 7-6 in the 3rd. 0-2 South Wales
Harvey found the challenge of his match very tough, but even tougher because he knew it was a must win match. 0-3 South Wales Michael went on in a positive frame of mind and gave his best but he too found the pressure of the situation too tough to handle and went down in two tight sets. 0-4 South Wales The doubles were split as one match each with Keean and Rory having a chance to play. 1-5 South Wales.
It was a really tough day for the boys and a shame to finish the weekend on that note, but in reality it was a big ask for all of the boys to play up one position higher than maybe they were ready for, not in terms of level of tennis but pressure of playing at that position. We had a fun weekend which was added to by the fact we were together with the girls team and everyone got along really well.

Craig & Mark
Team Captains

U10 Boys County Cup 2015

Team:
Matthew Pickering
Oliver Evans
Hugo Coquelin
Alexis Chastang
Rory Marles

Davor Baretic
Team Captain

Day One
First match: Kent vs Dorset 3-2
Hugo Coquelin kicked off proceedings as number 3 against Dorset. Hugo played his consistent tennis and won convincingly 4-0 4-2 to give Kent a 1-0 lead. Oliver Evans played as our number 2 and played a touch match against Louis Cunningham. Five games went to deuce but Oliver was not able to win any and ended up losing the match and draw the tie at 1-1. Mathew Pickering played as our number 1 and unfortunately lost his match. Needing to win the doubles rubber to take us into a match tiebreak shootout I was confident that Matthew and Oliver could do it. They won their match 4-2 5-3 playing very good attacking doubles. This made the score 2-2 and boys played a shootout tiebreak straight after and won it 10-2. They played outstanding and we ended up winning 3-2 overall.
Second match: Kent vs Buckingamshire 4-0
Being more relaxed after the first match all 3 boys played very well in their singles matches and gave us a 3-0 lead. I decided to give Alexis and Rory (our 4th and 5th players) a chance to play in doubles as they trained well throughout the week prior to competition. They fought very well and won the match in 2 tiebreaks 5-4 5-4. We won 4-0.

As Sundays' weather did not look great, referee made a decision to play the semis the same day.
Semi Final Kent vs Surrey 3-0
Matthew, Oliver and Hugo were very excited to play in the semi finals and they showed that on the court with great fighting spirit to win their singles matches in straight sets. That gave us the victory and a chance in the final. Doubles was not played.
Day 2
Final - Hampshire & IOW vs Kent 3-1
This was already a great achievement in reaching the finals. Boys were nervous going into the match so we tried to stick to the same routine in the warm up. Matthew and Oliver played at the same time. Matthew played against one of the best players in the country Daniel Pricket and lost 4-1 4-0. Oliver had a really tough first set against Aaron Dawson and won it in the tiebreak 8-6. That was a big moment of the match and Oliver grew more in confidence and won the second set and the match. Tie was 1-1. Hugo who won all his matches the previous day then went on to play against Louie Bowden. Even though Hugo beat him in their last meeting Louie was too strong this time and won the match 4-1 4-0. We then needed to win the doubles to take the game to the shootout. Matthew and Oliver unfortunately could not take their momentum from the previous day and due to nervous did not played their best and ended losing 4-0 4-0. The overall score finished 3-1.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents and most importantly the players. It was my pleasure to work with them and I was pleased to see them try their hardest every match. All the players have a great future in front of them and I wish them all the best. Coming second has been the best result for 10U Kent team in the recent years.

U10 Girls County Cup 2015

Team:
Anais Fernandez-Laaksonen
Emily Bolton
Daisy Carpenter
Skye Bentum-Siripi

Harry Bushnell
Team Captain

Our first match this year was against Dorset. With all 3 girls on at once, we knew it was a great chance to take control and show all of our competitors that we meant business. Emily and Skye both got off to flying starts, racing to 3-0 leads, daisy was finding her feet, her opponent was being stubborn in the early going. Skye was motoring, taking the first set 4-0 and going up in the second set, her tennis was so effective. Emily was pegged back to 3-2 but won a tense eight game to take the the first set and at the same time Daisy found her rhythm and began to dominate, playing some great tennis. Daisy and Skye quickly wrapped their matches to put Kent 2-0 ahead, Emily was being made to work hard but showed some great determination, closing out her match 4-2, 4-2. We were 3-0 up, an unassailable lead, it couldn't have been a better start to the day by our girls.

We knew our next match against Surrey was going to be more challenging, they once again had a very good squad of players, but we were confident going into the matches.Anais playing at 1 had her work cut out against a very classy opponent, but she was sticking with her at the start of the match. On the other courts, Daisy was up, getting off to an amazing start, but Emily was struggling a little. Daisy found herself being tested several times by her plucky opponent, but weathered the storm and built up a very nice lead taking the first set and going 3-0 ahead in the second. Despite losing the first set of her match, Emily quickly turned the tables taking the second and started to look more and more confident. Anais continued to battle hard but it was not to be and she lost against a very strong player. At 9-6 down in the tie break, Emily looked like she may have faulted and out of nowhere Daisy saw herself 4-3 down with her opponent making life seriously difficult,

It was time to breathe, be strong and fight. In what was a huge effort, Emily saved 4 match points and won the third set, what a performance! With the momentum against her, Daisy dug deep and clinched the second set tie break to put us 2-1 up going into the doubles, a dramatic 10 minutes of play that gave us a real chance of defeating Surrey. All four of our girls went on to play doubles, Anais and Skye paired up against Dorset with Daisy and Emily taking on Surrey. Anais and Skye got off to a solid start but Emily and Daisy were struggling, their opponents just were not missing a ball. Unfortunately this carried on and despite a brief rally from our girls and they lost in straight sets which meant they had to go back on for a tiebreak shoot-out to decide the tie that was now level at 2-2.

It wasn't to be, our girls put up a good fight but lost to a better team and on the other court Anais and Skye also slipped up, although this was a dead rubber and had no impact on the result against Dorset as we'd already won.

When we arrived on the second day, the weather was absolutely horrendous, wind and rain and it was forecast for the whole day! The captains were called to a meeting and we agreed for the format to be reduced to a single set, which I believed increased our chances as anything could happen in such a short match, we needed Surrey to lose and this was probable your best chance.

Although this was the case, we still needed to stay focused on our own matches as we needed to win.

Against Sussex, in possibly the worst playing conditions I have ever seen, Emily, Daisy and Skye all wasted no time at all in taking the lead in their matches. They were all dealing with the conditions unbelievably well, were professional and smart, Daisy won 4-0, Sky won 4-1 and although Emily's opponent stared to mount a bit of a last minute comeback, she came out a 4-2 winner, we were 3-0 ahead which meant again we had already won the tie.

Our last set of singles matches were against Hampshire, we stuck to the same line up as our girls were on fire. They didn't disappoint and once again, all won their matches with the loss of just one game between them! It was magnificent to see them take care of business so promptly, Daisy again winning 4-0 along with Skye with Emily winning 4-1, we were also given some news that Surrey had dropped a rubber against Sussex, we still had a chance.

The referee made a good call in putting the doubles match between Sussex and Surrey on first, if this went Sussex way and then they won a tiebreak shoot-out we would have a great chance of winning the group on count back, if Surrey won the doubles against Sussex they would be champions, it was a slight glimmer of hope but we were still hanging on. In the end, it didn't go our way, Surrey did win which meant we finished second by the narrowest of margins.

All four of our girls did win the dead doubles rubbers against Sussex and Hampshire which was a great show of character as there really wasn't anything to play for at this stage and and the conditions hadn't improved at all, it was a tremendous effort from our girls.

I'd like to thank them all for playing and representing Kent, they really did do us proud. All four of them showed what great players they are and that they all have very bright futures ahead of them.

I'd also like to thank all of the parents for watching and supporting the girls, it made a huge difference and it doesn't go unnoticed.

U12 Girls County Cup 2015

Team:
Emma Sawkings
Theodora Enslyn
Phoebe-Mireille Ecuyer Dale
Caitlin McCoulghlin

Martin Whitehouse
Team Captain

After four weeks of training the Kent girls 12 under team of Emma Sawkings, Theodora Enslyn, and Phoebe-Mireille Ecuyer Dale headed to Chichester to compete against the counties of, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire & Dorset. Unfortunately the last minute withdrawal of squad member Ella Wood due to injury left the girls a player short but a quick SOS call to Caitlin McCoulghlin put us back to full strength.

Day one saw Kent draw up against an incredible strong Surrey squad. The team of Emma Sawkins playing one, Theodora Enslyn Playing two and Phoebe Dale playing three put up a spirited performance but were eventually comfortably beaten by the eventual winners.

Saturday afternoon saw Kent matched up against the girls from Hampshire, Phoebe playing again at singles postion number three got the girls of to a great start with an incredibly hard fought victory winning a marathon of a match 4-1 3-5 11-9. Unfortunately Theodora and Emma couldn't keep the momentum going, losing both their matches leaving Kent 2-1 down after the singles. In the doubles Emma & Phoebe went toe to toe with the strong pair from Hampshire losing the first set but coming back brilliantly to take the second only then to be piped to the post in a closely fought third set tiebreak.

After an enjoyable evening meal at Pizza Express the players, coach and parents went to bed reflecting on a tough day on court and looking forward to the challenge of another two matches on Sunday.

Up bright and early for practise the next day the girls were looking forward to the challenge of playing the second seeds Sussex. First match up saw Caitlin making her debut at number three compete hard before losing a tight first set to the left hander from Sussex. The second set drifted away leaving Kent one down after the first round of matches. Theodora Enslyn playing at two played some of the best tennis of the weekend before eventually running out of steam to lose 4-2 5-4 in a match that lasted over an hour and a half. The final match of the fixture saw a courageous effort from Emma Sawkins, as she lost to the highest rated player at the competition 4-1 4-0.

In the final match of the weekend Kent played a very closely matched team from Dorset. Playing back in a regular position of number three Phoebe got the girls off to a flyer with a very convincing 4-0 4-1 victory. Theodora playing two struggled to repeat the great form of the day before losing in straight sets to a strong Dorset player. Then came probably the best match of the weekend with Emma battling incredible hard for every point before finally going down in a third set tiebreak to a strong Dorset number 1. With the match delicately balanced at 2-1 the pair of Emma and Phoebe were selected to play the important doubles. In a high standard first set the girls worked extremely hard, hurting their opponents with Emma's big groundstroke's and phoebes volleys but unfortunately the set went the way of the pair from Dorset in a tiebreaker. In the second set the efforts of the weekend finally caught up with the Kent girls who went down 4-1.

Although over the weekend for the Kent girls didn't manage to win a match I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work, enthuasium and fighting spirit. Their behaviour on and off court was a credit to them and to Kent LTA. A big thank you must also go to all the parents who gave up their weekend to come along to support, it was much appreciated.

U12 Boys County Cup 2015

Team:
Archie Turner
Isaac Jochim
Freddie Dear
Luke Ralph.

The 2015 County Cup held in Hassocks was a great venue and was to be a terrific experience for the Under 12's Boys. Team training had been very successful and as Captain, I was looking forward to seeing the boys compete. Kent were on second round versus Sussex, which seemed to be a good omen as the temperatures were rising quickly which meant Kent could stay cool and keep in the shade while the other Counties took to the courts.

Archie was up first against Lui Maxted which was a straight set win for Lui, however Archie showed at times some great hitting from the back of the court and some clever defensive play. Luke beat Toby Bloomfield in a thrilling third set tiebreak which put Kent at one rubber each. Isaac lost a tight match four and two against Thomas Buettell triggs but showed a great deal of composure and positivity. Kent went on to win the doubles but unfortunately lost the rubber on a shootout 10-8.

Second round saw Kent face the Hampshire team in a must win match as Sussex had already beaten them, which meant Kent, had to win to progress through to the semi finals. The Kent team did not disappoint. Archie won a third set tiebreak which was a fantastic response from his earlier loss. Luke quickly dispatched Alex Elise in record time as Kent went into the lead with a two rubber deficit. Isaac lost to Oli Fernandez but again showed a great deal of maturity for his age.The doubles pairing of Archie and Isaacs were triumphant also with a solid win and thus took Kent through to the semi finals against Dorset.

Kent were very upbeat against Dorset however the enthusiasm did not translate into the matches as all three players lost in quick succession to their counterparts. Luke Ralph had a slight opportunity to make his opponent work harder for his match but strong defensive play and some great shot making made it very difficult indeed. Even though Kent lost the tie, we were looking forward to making a mends against Sussex again to take third place in the competition.

Archie was rested for the Sussex tie which meant all players moved up the order. Luke lost a closely fought match to Lui Maxted but played tactically well throughout the match. Isaac rose to the challenge playing at no.2 with a good win over his opponent. Freddie Dear made his debut singles appearance against Beuttell Trigg in what was to be a tough match. Freddie served huge from start to finish and simply bossed his opponent for the duration of the match which resulted in a Kent win. Kent went on to lose the doubles which left the team at a draw but a well earned shootout for the deciding rubber. Freddie jumped at the chance to play the crucial match and soon Isaac followed suit. Freddie returned accurately and served ferociously with Isaac picking off easy volleys which saw Kent prevail 10-8 and to take third place!!

It was a fitting end to the tournament and to the weekend but without the support from Sam Smith who stepped up to Vice Captain at the last minute and from the support of the parents and players it would not of been possible.

Thank you to all!

Max Robinson
Team Captain

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The Rise and Rise of Vererans Tennis

Hard to believe now, but prior to 1974, there were little of any competitions for Veterans Tennis players. A tennis players life then consisted of moving from Junior to a Clubs third team and working their way upwards to the big boys of the first team. Naturally, it was a similar story for the Ladies. As we all know, advancing years meant that at some stage the player then went on a downward spiral similar to the game of Snakes and Ladders, ending up with the social tennis set. Perhaps playing in the inter club friendlies very popular events then, but now sadly long gone. No veterans tennis then to brighten the advancing years. That was until someone somewhere came up with tennis for gentlemen of 45 years and over and Ladies 40 years and over. As you might expect there were many of both species who were rather reluctant to admit that they had indeed seen 45 or 40 golden summers. Nowadays such is not the case and a call up to represent Kent is seen in the same light as when Harry Kane got his recent text or email to play football for England.

So back in 1974 the British Veterans Lawn Tennis Association was launched followed in 1975 by the Mens grasscourt Singles and Doubles. The Ladies followed in 1979. In 1981 came the Inter county events and in 1996 the Inter Club which the 45 Club dominated. Moving on to the present, we now have competitions starting at 35 and going up on five year tiers, right up to Ladies 80 and over and Mens 85 and over Singles and Doubles. Indeed at last years 85 and over Nationals at Wimbledon, out on court was 91 year old Robert Caruna. Medics tell us that we are taking care of our health better (pass the tablets) and that we are living longer. Robert Caruna is living proof that we are.

Veterans Tennis has thrown up a lot of good things, firstly that you can play against people of your own age in competitions provided that you are in good health to do so. Secondly, should you be successful you go on the British and World rankings and get the opportunity to represent Great Britain at home and abroad. It can be a very active hectic travelling life for many. Thirdly, many many ordinary players who were never good enough to play at county level begin to blossom in later years and find themselves turning in unbelievable performances against ex county or even ex national players of years gone. The secret, so I'm told is to keep fit, play regularly, avoid injuries and have a considerate wife or husband.

Welcome to Kent Veterans Tennis. In November 1977 a young man at the North Kent AGM had the temerity to suggest that they run a mens veterans inter club league. The top table of Jim Kiddell and Stan Evans were not too impressed, but on a narrow vote they gave the proposer the go ahead provided he would run the competition. He agreed and Vets tennis had arrived in one corner of Kent. Ten years later Kent followed suit and Tunbridge Wells men and Knoll ladies were the first winners. However Veterans Tennis Inter County wise had begun earlier in 1981 where I can find just one result, our mens 45 team losing to Surrey. I982 set the ball really rolling when Austin Smith took over captaincy. Inter county veterans tennis was here to stay.

The purpose of this article is to list the names and appearances of all those Men and Ladies who have represented Kent since 1981 to 2014 including the 35 and over players up to the 75 and over players. To do this we got our Anorak man and locked him in a room with annual reports, handbooks, Kent Magazines etc. A difficult task where authentically cannot be entirely guaranteed. But the poor man has done his best and we hope that it makes good reading. If you spot any errors drop a line to the Editor:

MEN

Rob Andrew 61, John Ackers 51, Brain Alford 34, Keith Agebo 19, Richard Barwick 1, John Bickley 27, David Bulgin 23, Mike Bull 2, Clive Best 2, Paul Bourdon 25, Jason Baker 2, Colin Beecher 4, Andy Burgoyne 7, Austin Brice 8, George Buckmaster 1, Dave Balow 28, Mark Cunningham 13, Denis Costelloe 26, Peter Cheevers 3, Brian Coper 1, Jaspar Cooper 47, Colin Coombes 25, Steve Cargo 11, Keith Clark 44, David Clements 3, David Cotterill 1, Peter Crump 12, Vic Chance 49, Colin Dancey 76, Derek Drayson 48, Paul Drane 67, Giles Davey 1, Colin Evans 12, Peter Elsden 41, Colin Edmondson 10, Doug Feaver 66, Mike Fallon 126, Brian Francis 2, Thornburn Frost 1, Peter Ford 18, Martin Guntrip 18, Robin Garratt 39, Ian Green 3, Liam Griffith 4, Keith Gill 9, Mark Giles 2, Simon Gent 12, Simon Grieve 3, Clint Harris 12, Mike Hearn 5, Lionel Hoskins 51, Clive Hutchings 22, Ted Hooker 2, Derrick Haines 2, John Hills 22, Peter Hannon 17, Peter Hill 1, Malcolm Hillier 11, Hamid Irshad 3, John Jacobs 4, Stephen Joyce 11, Mus Kemal 1, Phil Lynch 9, Chris Lack 3, Peter Lamb 2, Peter Long 44, Geoff Lawley 3, Chris Mackenzie 7, Chris Merrick 2, Stephen Matthews 2, Mick Mayer 36, Michael Moir 11, Maden Mehta 11, Bob Milner 85, Ian Mackay 1, Ray Murray 32, Ian Milligan 3, Brian Mileham 3, Dave McSorley, Brian Moleshead 17,Tony Martyn 2, Peter Norman 5, Roger North 1, Martin O'Neill 13, Peter Pharo 29, Brian Perris 7, John Potter 13, Jonathan Potter 20, David Payne 1, Phil Pretty 17, Alan Richardson 3, John Reynolds 42, Graham Russell 57, Brain Robinson 14, Mike Ritchings 16, Jeff Richards 3, Chris Ring 1, Mike Reynolds 5, Mike Roi 24, Brain Roberts 5, Nigel Smith 4, Austin Smith 2, Malcolm Smith 14, Stuart Smith 21, Niall Sweeney 91, Keith Spurgeon 89, Peter Stotesbury 2, Derek Shepherd 17, Roy Spindler 16, Ray Stephens 11, Roy Savage 1, Adam Swan 7, Paul Salter 10, Gary Sims 75, Dino Skeete 14, Rob Smith 2, Derek Taylor 25, Neil Taylor 12, Alan Thompson 54, Bernard Waters 1, Dave Willan 1, Norman Witham 11, Jeff Wright 2, Chris Wells 2, Richard Whichello 15, Ron Wellard 19, Ranji Wattagedera 4, Alan Waller 6, Bob Whitehead 102, Vic Warden 17, Stephen Woodley 104, John Watton 53, Dominic Wood 39, Alan Wilmhurst 9, Paul White 8, Mike Young 3, Andrew Yates-Bell 1.

LADIES

Marcia Ackers 122, Rae Anderson 17, Keri Arith-Jakes 9, Barbara Bigg 3, Sue Bamford 1, Freda Bompass 2, Diane Bennett 22, Sheila Badger 7, Mary Bower 32, Caroline Bezant 1, Rosemary Bickley 1, Pauline Barnett 14, Jackie Baker 2, Monica Beswick 12, Janet Broster 51, Caroline Brown 2, Sue Boffey 23, Tracy Bunney 2, Pauline Cox 3, Sue Colvin 4, Sue Croft 39, Yvonne Childs 13, Mary Cannon 7, Celia Cavaday 1, Liz Cowan 62, Val Chivers 2, Gill Dickie 24, Alison Dunkley 9, Ann Downes-Powell 23, Maureen Freeman 10, Elke Gardner 56, Lyn Giles 4, Jane Gentle 26, Anne Gibbs 29, Sally Holmes 58, Ann Hutchings 1, Kate Hands 1, Doreen Hinchcliffe 12, Sue Hornsby 23, Myra Hunter 42, Mary Hill 1, Catherine Horne 1, Gaynor Hawkins 6, Sally Johnson 10, Helen Jary 68, Ruth Illingworth 21, Hazel Lindfield 99, Christine Lewis 3, June Lloyd 5, Susan Long 10, Kay Mileham 40, C Maxwell-Scott 1, Ros Marriott-Cox 1, Pat Morecroft 13, Karen Maltby 45, Tina Moore 1, Angela Mehta 5, Linda McSorley 18, Angela Meaking 25, Bridget Nicholson 32, Gillian Newsom 16, Carine Nienabab 3, Jill Oates 5, Sally Parsonage 18, Chris Porter 6, Maureen Pinnegar 14, Sarah Pout 34, Patricia Pinnington 2, Rachel Payne 32, Angela Townsend15, Judy Thackwell 3, Chris Troke 23, Sue Teubler 37, Vanessa Tickner 40, Nadine Quench 15, Suzi Russell 47, Jo Robinson 5, Harriet Roxburgh 1, Margaret Redsell 22, Chris Russell-Vick 27, Kathy Reid –Dick 4, Norma Smith 5, Pam Smith 3, Lynsey Smith 9, Cynthia Smith 124, Nayla Sohl 25, Sally Sawyer 5, Jean Skidmore 16, Rosemary Snook 19, Beverley Stanley 1, Flick Shipton 13, Shirley Spurgeon 45, Collette Sparrow 2, Jo Salmon 51, Anthea Stewart 17, Sally Ring 18, Betty Simms 22, Sarah Van-Doren 67, Susan Waters 1, Anthea Warwick 2, Jenny Williams 13, Ann Williams 53, Shirley White 3, Judy Woodley 36, Sue Wandless 15, Michelle Wheeler 7, Maria Wheeler 1, Lady Weatherhill 1.

Senior Men Vigorous

Back row L to R:
Adrian Moll,
Nigel Cannon,
Andrew Castle,
Mark Cunningham.
Front row L to R:
Graeme Semadeni,
Dino Skeete,
Austin Smith,
Jason Baker.

Kent men's 45s in their nice new kit after playing Somerset who turned out none other than Andrew Castle. The Kent team were supported by our Kent Tennis President Austin Smith and his wife, Cynthia.

It wasn't looking good when the first three red score tabs pointed Somerset 3 sets to love then Andrew Castle approached the net and hit a winning drop volley that span back to his racket like a yoyo just before he completed the first rubber of the day against Mark Cunningham who generously volunteered to brave a near impossible task. 1-0 Somerset.

A few minutes later the blue Kent wave started to roll at full speed when debut player Graeme Semadeni partnering his long established partner Nigel Cannon won their third set against Somerset's Graham Tucker and Aaron Flamson to draw the tie 1-1.

At number two singles, Adrian Moll versus Dean Cornish was also making his Kent County Seniors debut playing the most critical match of the day. Helped by his fiery competitive nature and heavy topspin forehand Adrian fought back to a 3rd set decider to win the third rubber with some of the best tennis of the day. 2-1 to Kent.

The match was then handed to Kent when Andrew's entirely genuine Wimbledon commentating commitment meant that Somerset conceded the forth rubber and the draw went to Kent.

Dino Skeete

This year's Award for the Most Promising Captain must go to Dino Skeete, who brought men mostly new or fairly new to inter-county tennis (Nigel Cannon, Adrian Moll, Graham Semadeni, besides Jason Baker and Dino himself) into his 45 team, organised regular practices and trials for them at Newstead, kitted them out (see photo), and set them in motion for what (if they wish, and the Good Lord provides) could be 30 years of good competive play at this level.

Kent 45's Division 2 opponents were less well-organised and, disappointingly, the side had two walkovers to go alongside a 3-2 win over Somerset and 2-3 defeats by Wilts and Surrey but the promise is there, and the good organisational basis for 2016.

Captain of the Most Successful team was Rob Andrew, who also set up good practice sessions, and was rewarded by wins 5-0 over Notts and Bucks, 4-1 away to Cheshire and 3-2 Essex, before the lead players Bob Whitehead and Jasper Cooper (neither of whom had lost a singles or doubles in those four matches) met an even stronger Herts duo and the final match in 1B was lost 2-3. Rob himself, Robin Garratt, Brian Moleshead and Chris Morgan supplied a talented supporting cast in the 60s.

Another captain whose team gained by practising (with Lionel Hoskins reportedly being trained up by Bob Whitehead for the vital last match) was Graham Russell's 75s, who discovered a stronger group than last year, had three 1-3 defeats, but beat Staffs convincingly and then squeezed victory by a set in Plymouth to retain 1st Division status.

More comfortably remaining in Division 1 were Jonathan Potter's 65s and Dominic Wood's 50s, but each met implacable opponents, in Leics and Surrey, Leics and Essex respectively. Peter Pharo, Keith Ajegbo, Chris Mackenzie gave good support in the 65s ; John Watton, David Bulgin and Clint Harris provided strength in Dominic's team, and will all move up with him to the 55s next year and begin a recovery act there, alongside established 55s like Paul White. Effective also for the 55s (5-0 winners over Hants and Devon) were Malcolm Smith and Peter Elsden.

By more sinuous routes, M70s joined Rob's 60s as 1B runners-up. 5-0 wins over Herts and West of Scotland were the basis of this ; and particular thanks to the four men who travelled to Glasgow at £100 each of their own money (but where would GB tennis be without the Scots ?) to ensure the team was safe. The Beds duo of Norman Church and Terry Mabbutt, both GB 70s in 2014, were always going to be strong, but Bob Milner (conceding seven years) gave the latter a good game, and then went on to play 2nd string singles for GB 75s in Croatia in September.

Gary Sims captained the 70s in two of these matches, and next year hopes to have Stuart Smith, Ray Murray and David Drayson thrusting into the 70s to join Vic Chance, Colin Dancey, Keith Clark and himself; in 2016 this team could be one to Watch.

Stephen Woodley

The Seniors' Championship for the Kent – Women's 40 Team proved to be a challenging series of matches this season, due primarily to the strength and depth of the opposing teams and the level of experience of some of the very established doubles pairings that we faced in the top - Division 1A, and also to the fact that some team selection decisions were impacted more than in previous seasons, by availability and injury considerations (some decisions in relation to team composition and combinations often having to be made at relatively short notice).

Despite ultimately being relegated to Division 2 for next season, we did have a very good and encouraging home victory versus Hereford and Worcestershire, and also there were some great performances by all team members throughout the season, with many of the singles and doubles rubbers going to very closely fought championship (third set) tie-breaks.

We can look forward positively to next season as a squad/team, when we will be in a division where we will be able to be more competitive, with a realistic chance to achieve promotion back to the top – Division 1, and where there will be an opportunity to introduce some new players into the Women's 40 squad, alongside those members of the current squad/team that have many years of competitive experience now at senior county level.

The Women's 35 Inter-County Championships, was a very enjoyable and encouraging three sunshine-filled days of competitive tennis for the Kent team – with some excellent performances in the singles and doubles rubbers, and also a great team spirit, that especially welcomed and supported the three new members of the team who made their debuts this summer – Caroline Laming, Karen Thomas and Alessia Cuomo.

An important and confidence-building victory on the first day of the event versus Gloucestershire, proved pivotal to the final standings within a very strong and competitive division, and the Kent team will remain in Division 3 (having finished 3rd in Division 3B this summer) within which we can look forward to a very high standard and competitive level of tennis in the 2016 35's Inter-County Championships, and where there will be further opportunity to focus on introducing new players (within the 35 – 44 age group) to the squad/team.

Thank you, Cynthia and the Kent LTA for your continued support this season, and once again for the opportunity to captain both the Women's 40 and 35 Teams – an opportunity that I very much appreciate, enjoy, and am proud to have.

Finally a big thank you to everyone for your commitment to the Kent team(s) this season – we all played some great and enjoyable tennis.

Suzy Russell

Ladies 35 Inter-County Competition Division 3B

Team:

Karen Thomas	M = 2 R = 2 (debut)
N Solh	M = 3 R = 4
K Hands	M = 3 R = 5
S Russell	M = 3 R = 5
Alessia Cuomo	M = 2 R = 3 (debut)
Caroline Laming	M = 3 R = 3 (debut)

Kent beat Gloucestershire 4-1.
Kent lost to Somerset 1-4,
and Warwickshire 1-3.
(The final rubber conceded by Warwickshire)

Kent finished 3rd in Division 3B and remain in Division 3 for 2016.

Ladies 40 Inter-County Competition Division 1A

Team:

Rachel Payne	M = 4 R = 8
Gillian Newsom	M = 4 R = 8
Jacquie Baker	M = 2 R = 4
Suzy Russell	M = 5 R = 10
Kate Hands	M = 1 R = 2
Tracey Bunney	M = 1 R = 2
Kerrin Cross	M = 1 R = 2
Lisa King	M = 1 R = 2
Linda McSorley	M = 1 R = 2

Kent beat Hereford & Worcester 4-1.
Kent lost to Middlesex 1-4,
Leicestershire 2-3,
Sussex 0-5,
and Gloucestershire 1-4.

Kent finished in 6th place in Division 1A, & will be relegated to Division 2 for 2016.

Senior Ladies County Teams

The Senior County Ladies teams have had a fairly successful year. The 35s, 55s, 65s and 70s teams have all maintained their respective positions in Division 1, but unfortunately both the 40s and 50s teams may be relegated. We are hoping that the 60s team will be promoted back to Division

The outstanding team is the 55s captained by Hazel Lindfield – they have won Division 1 Group A and will play in a final at Dudley in November. (see following page)

Kent beat Somerset 4-0,
beat Middlesex 3-1,
beat Essex 3-1,
beat Northumberland 3-1
and lost to Surrey 1-3.

Kent finished 2nd in Division 1
Team: Marcia Ackers (1.5), Diana Bennett (1), Janet Broster (4.5), Elke Gardner (4), Helen Jary (4), Sarah Pout (5)
Captain: Marcia Ackers

Cynthia Smith

Kent Ladies win the National Inter County Title

The 55s outstanding team is:
L to R
Sarah Van-Doren
Hazel Lindfield
Linda McSorley
Anne Gibbs
Jo Salmon

Having won all our matches this summer in Division 1B against Berkshire, Hampshire and IOW, Hereford & Worcester, Middlesex and Surrey we travelled to David Lloyd Dudley for the National Inter County final against Lancashire on Saturday 7th November 2015.

We had to play the match on one court, so started with the number 2 singles. Linda cracked off against Michelle Watts and following a nervy start found herself a set and 5-2 down, but then started to relax and fought back to take the second set 7-5. A close tie break followed, but the extra experience of her opponent came through and Michelle took the tie beak 10-7.

Hazel followed in the number 1 singles, and managed a comfortable 6-1, 6-1 win over Julie Healey.

Anne and Sarah were next up in the doubles against Roberta Holtby and Aileen Hext, here were two experienced and evenly matched pairs, which ultimately finished with a 10 point tie break, Anne and Sarah reached 9-6 only to be pegged back to 9 all, it was all very tense, but the dogged Kent spirit shone through and we won 11-9, never in doubt!!!

With the men's match next to us finishing quickly, we were able to play the 2nd round doubles together, so Anne and Sarah took on Julie and Michelle and Hazel and Jo took on Roberta and Aileen. We both shot off in to early leads and maintained the pressure to secure wins in both doubles with the loss of only four games, which sealed the match and the title, beating Lancashire 4-1 in the Final.

We were presented with Seniors tennis GB mugs and a certificate from Austin Smith. It was a great performance and a very enjoyable weekend.

Hazel Lindfield
Captain

Ladies 50 Inter County Cup Division 1B

Team:
J Gentle (5)
S Holmes (5)
K Jakes (4)
H Lindfield (1)
J Moore (1)
G Turner (1)
S Wandless (1)
C Wilton (4)
Capitan: S Holmes

Kent lost to Yorkshire 1-4,
to Hampshire 2-3.
Kent beat Avon 3-2.
Kent l
ost to Surrey 0-5,
lost to Norfolk 1-4.
Kent finished 6th and will be relegated to Division 2.

Ladies 55 Inter County Cup Division 1B

Team:
L McSorley (5)
J Salmon (3)
S Van-Doren (5)
A Gibbs (4)
N Smith (1).
Capitan: H Lindfield (5)

Kent beat Berkshire 5-0,
Middlesex 3-2,
Surrey 5-0,
Hereford & Worcester 5-0,
beat Hampshire & IOW 4-1.

Kent won group 1B and went through to the Inter-County finals at Dudley on Nov 7th 2015. (see report - left)

Ladies 60 Inter County Cup Division 2A

Team:
M Cannon (5)
S Badger (5)
N Smith (5)
A Townsend (0.5)
Captain: A Meakin (4.5)

Kent lost to Somerset 2-2 (4/5).
Kent beat Gloucestershire 3-1.
Kent lost to Dorset 0-4.
Kent beat Buckinghamshire 3-1,
and Devon 3-1.

Kent finished 2nd and will remain in Division 2 (it is expected)

Ladies 65 Inter County Cup Division 1A

Team:
M Hunter (5)
K Mileham (4.5)
F Shipton (5)
Y Childs (5)
Captain: C Troke (5)

Kent beat Suffolk 3-1,
Dorset 4-0
Kent Lost to Surrey 1-3.
Kent beat Northumberland 2-2,
Shropshire 3-1.

Kent finished 2nd and will remain in Division 1.

Ladies 70 Inter County Cup Division 1B

Team:
D Bennett (1)
J Broster (4.5)
E. Gardner (4)
H Jary (4)
S Pout (5)
Captain: M Ackers (1.5)

Kent beat Somerset 4-0
Middlesex 3-1,
Essex 3-1,
Northumberland 3-1
and lost to Surrey 1-3.

Kent finished 2nd and will remain in Division 1.

Stop Press

Emma Raducanu won her first ITF U18 event beating Lauren Batiste in the Final. Emma also recently won a Tennis Europe event.

Daisy Carpenter has been selected to represent GB in France, in February next year in an 11 & under tournament Les Jeunes-Pousses.

Also from Sundridge Park. Ben Robinson was selected as a Barclays Ball Kid at the ATP Finals. Ben was also lucky enough to be selected to ball kid during the final.

Again from Sundridge Park, Paul & Will Everett won through to the National Finals of the Quorn Family Cup and made the Quarter Finals.

Mens 35 Inter County Cup – Group 3B

Team:
A Burgoyne (3)
O Freelove (4)
R Smith (3)
D Wood (2)
Captain: M Roi (4)

Unfortunately all matches were washed out on the first day of play, so we didn't get to play against Bedfordshire.

On the Saturday we were up against Derbyshire. Olly Freelove went on first as our number 2 singles player and got the team off to a great start winning comfortably in straight sets. Next up was Andy Burgoyne at number 1 singles. Andy also got off to a good start, winning the first set, although it was clear he was struggling late on in that set with an injury he picked up the week before. Even so, he managed to go a break up and serving for the match. Unfortunately, he was broken and ultimately lost an extremely close match losing the 2nd set tie breaker and the champions tie break. Next up were Mike Roi and Dave Wood who lost in straight sets, and then Rob Smith and Mike Roi went down in a very close match which meant that Kent were down 3 - 1 and had lost the match. Andy Burgoyne and Olly Freelove claimed the final rubber with a comfortable win in straight sets.

On Sunday we were up against Essex. Rob Smith went on as number 2 singles, and came from a set and a break down to win the second set and the champions tie break to claim the first rubber. Olly Freelove went on as our number 1, and also managed a very hard fought victory in the champions tie break. Andy Burgoyne and Mike Roi then lost the 3rd rubber, again in a champions tie break, by 14-12. Next up were Rob Smith and Olly Freelove, and it was becoming clear that this match would decide who won the division and who was going down a division, so all to play for! Rob and Olly lost a tough match, leaving all riding on the final match.
Andy Burgoyne was now too injured to continue, so Dave wood and Mike Roi played the final match, finally winning in the 4th champions tie break of the day 10-4.

Kent stay up, and Essex finish in 2nd

Kent lost to Derbyshire 2-3.
Kent beat Essex 3-2.

Kent finished 3rd in Group 3B and will remain in Division 3.

E Mail - kent@lta.org.uk

For the attention of Dennis Costelloe.

Page 49 of the new and admirable "Kent County LTA Annual Handbook 2015" wrongly shows a 'photo of the Kent 70 & Over team which won the British inter-County Trial Championship in 2001, and not the 2002 team as stated.

The actual first winners of the 70 & Over British Championship in 2002 may be seen in the enclosed 'photo after their final victory at the Bromley Tennis Club.

From left to right facing: John Reynolds (Captain), Team Manager, John Ackers, Vic Warden, Lionel Hoskins.

Herne BaY
Kent CT6

24/6/15

The players L to R are:
John Reynolds, Ron Wellard John Ackers, Vic Warden and Lionel. Lionel is the only one of the group still playing for Herne Bay teams and he also represented the Kent 75 team this year.

Men 50 Inter County Cup Division 1A

Team:
David Bulgin (4)
John Watton (4)
Peter Elsdon (3)
Simon Gent (2)
Malcolm Smith (3)
Captain: D Wood

Kent lost to Leicestershire 2-3,
lost to Essex 1-4.
Kent beat Devon 5-0,
Hampshire & IOW 5-0 and had one W/O.

Kent finished 3rd and remain in Division 1.

Men 55 Inter County Cup Division 2B

Team:
H Irshad (1),
I Milligan (2),
P White (2)
Captain: P Ford (2)

Kent beat Cambridgeshire 3-2.
Kent lost to Cheshire 2-3
(Conceding 2 Matches)

Kent finished 5th in Division 2B and will be relegated to Division 3.

Men 60 Inter County Cup Division 1B

Team:
J Cooper (5)
B Whitehead (5)
C Morgan (3)
R Garratt (2)
B Moleshead (2)
Captain: R Andrew (5)

Kent beat Nottinghamshire 5-0,
Buckinghamshire 4-1,
Cheshire 4-1,
and Essex 3-2.
Kent lost to Hertfordshire 2-3.
Kent finished 2nd and remain in Division 1

Men 65 Inter County Cup Division 1A

Team:
K Ajegbo (3)
G Hayward (2)
P Long (1)
C Mackenzie (2)
P Pharo (5)
S Smith (2)
Captain: J Potter (5)

Kent beat Devon 5-0.
Kent lost to Leicestershire 2-3,
to Surrey 0-5.
Kent beat Yorkshire 4-1,
and Hertfordshire 5-0.

Kent finished 3rd and remain in Division 1

Men 70 Inter County Cup Division 1A

Team:
G Cannon (2)
V Chance (4)
K Clark (5)
C Dancey (3)
R Milner (4)
G Sims (5)
Captain S Woodley (2)

Kent lost to Bedfordshire 2-3.
Kent beat West of Scotland 5-0,
Hertfordshire 5-0.
Kent lost to Essex 2-3.
Kent beat Hampshire & IOW 3-2.

Kent finished 2nd and remain in Division 1

Men 75 Inter County Cup Division 1B

Team:
D Costelloe (4)
J Hills (3)
L Hoskins (3)
G Russell (5)
D Taylor (5)
Captain: G Russell (5)

Kent lost to Somerset 1-3.
Kent beat Staffordshire 3-1.
Kent lost to Hertforshire 1-3
to Lancashire 1-3.
Kent beat Devon 2-2 (5/4).

Kent finished 4th and remain in Division 1

Anton is National Champion

Kent Juniors continue to perform at the very highest level and this year was no exception and at Junior Nationals 2015, Kent players had the most successful year in two decades.

Photo Above - Clockwise from top left…

- Nell Miller was runner up in the 16&U girls singles consolation
- Anton Matusevich was winner and National Champion in 14&U boys singles
- Alex Juniper (R) was runner-up in the 18&U singles consolation
- Matt Summers and Thomas Wright were winners and National Champions of the 16&U boys doubles
- Sasha Hill (and her partner Victoria Allen) was winner and National Champion of the 14&U girls doubles. Sasha Hill won the girls doubles event in the Scottish Junior Open
- Abby Taylor (not in the picture) was runner-up in the 14&U girl's singles consolation
- Not pictured Florence Abbot was runner-up in the 18&U girls singles

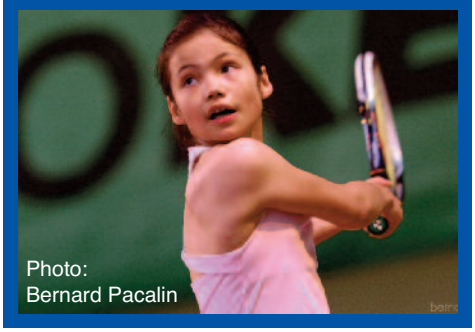


Photo:
Bernard Pacalin

Junior County Colours

In addition, two Kent players have represented Great Britain.

- Emma Raducanu (Above Left) represented GB in the 14&U European National Challenge and European Winter Cup.
- Nell Miller represented GB in the European Youth Olympics in Tablisi in Georgia.
  Nell also won a British Tour event and is the youngest person this century to do so.

Well done to Josephine Hogh, Rachel Le Comber, Natasha Munday, Mia Smith and Milo Bargeron who were awarded their Kent County junior colours for their performance in county teams for a number of years. They were presented at the County Championships presentation on 29 August.

In the picture (left) L to R - Natasha and Josephine were present to collect their colours badge and certificate.

Kent Disability Tennis

Disability tennis in Kent has been busy during spring and summer, with lots of participation in Wheelchair, Learning Disability and Tennis for the Visually Impaired (VI Tennis). We have continued forging and supporting links with Metro Blind Sport, Special Olympics and South London Special League.

Provision around the county has grown with the introduction of new sessions, including a session for Visually Impaired being run by Metro Blind Sport, but the highlight of the year at the Bromley Tennis Centre was the SEN schools championship, involving 48 boys and girls.

Disability activity in Kent is around the county at various venues, with Bromley Tennis centre an LTA supported hub, managed by Tom Defrates. Tom's role is supported by the Tennis Foundation and by Kent Tennis. He is always looking for new venues to run disability tennis session and help promote tennis activities.

If you would like more information about sessions or would like some support to start a session, please contact:
tom.defrates@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk.

Sandi Procter

The 86th Kent County Closed Championships 2015

In Kent's 125th year, the 86th Kent Championships took to Bromley Tennis Centre in the last week of the school summer holidays. The Championships continue to be regarded as the best and most enjoyable week for player across Kent with the winners of each age group crowned County Champion for 2015. Congratulations to Alex Juniper and Olivia Parson our Junior Champions for 2015.

Entries were slightly lower than in 2014 but Kent still remained the biggest in the country for the fifth year running, an incredible achievement! This year 409 individual players entered the Championships, resulting in 577 entries. 926 matches were played over the course of the seven days amounting to 1,599 sets and 7,040 games. Unfortunately the weather was not on our side and rain did affect most days of the championship. However the tournament is blessed with the use of six indoor courts which allows play to continue regardless. All 14 courts were used, well into the evening, and this year we had four newly surfaced outdoor acrylic courts which were fantastic. As in previous years each player received a special T-shirt and programme, this year marking the 125th anniversary.

Austin Smith (Kent LTA President) and Sandi Procter (Kent LTA Board member) were on hand to present the trophies and prizes to the winners on finals day as well as offering their thanks to the tournament team. Our thanks go to Austin Smith in his last year as President for his continued support throughout the Championships and indeed for his support every year for his 25 year reign.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in organising and helping throughout the event in particular Nicole Daisley (Tournament Director), Chris Mann (Lead Tournament Referee), Susan Finch (Tournament Director & Referee), Claire Lilley and Harri Izzard. In June 2015, Susan moved on from Bromley Tennis centre to a new role at Sydenham LTC and our thanks go to her for the work she has done in the last 6 years to bring the Kent Championships to where they are today. We hope Susan will continue as Tournament Referee in the years to come! Our thanks must also go to the court supervisors, control desk officials, umpires and volunteers who are an essential part of the team. It's worth remembering that tournaments are expensive to run and without volunteers these events could not run. Thanks to Kent Tennis who provided the programmes, T-shirts and trophies; to Dunlop Slazenger, who provided the 120 dozen tournament balls required for the event; and to Bromley Tennis Centre. Without such a great venue and staff an event like this would be very different. Planning is already underway for the 2016 Championships and the tournament team welcome any feedback from players and parents, whether you played or not this year. We look forward to welcoming players entries for next year's event...
the 87th Championships.

To highlight a few who did a double: Alex Juniper won the men's championship as well as the boys; Olivia Parsons won the girls doubles as well as the singles; Oliver Richards won 14&U boys singles and doubles; Kristina Paskauskaite won 12&U girls singles and 14&U doubles; Abby Taylor won 16&U girls singles and 18&U mixed doubles. It was a family affair in the 8&U girls with Lois Newberry as winner and her sister Eloise runner-up.

Event	Winner	Runner Up	Score
8 & Under Boys Singles	Ben GUSIC-WAN	Luca TUNON	10-4
8 & Under Girls Singles	Lois NEWBERRY	Eloise NEWBERRY	10-4
9 & Under Boys Singles	Conor BRADY	Ben GUSIC-WAN	7-4, 7-2
9 & Under Boys Singles – Consol	Michael NKEREUWEM	David ABOAGYE	3-7, 7-1, 7-5
9 & Under Girls Singles	Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI	Daisy ROWLAND	7-4, 3-7, 7-4
9 & Under Girls Singles – Consol	Kate BLACKMAN	Saskia KEY	7-4, 7-5
10 & Under Boys Singles	Oliver EVANS	Alexis CHASTANG	4-0, 4-1
10 & Under Girls Singles	Daisy CARPENTER	Skye BENTUM-SIRIPI	4-0, 4-0
12 & Under Boys Singles	Isaac JOCHIM	Freddie DEAR	2-6, 6-3, [10-8]
12 & Under Girls Singles	Kristina PASKAUSKAITE	Sofia JOHNSON	6-0, 6-1
14 & Under Boys Singles	Oliver RICHARDS	Benjamin PHAN	7-5, 6-2
14 & Under Girls Singles	Charlotte IMBERT	Summer REEVES	3-6, 6-1, 6-2
14 & Under Boys Doubles	Keean DE VILLIERS & Oliver RICHARDS	William EVERETT & Isaac JOCHIM	6-2, 6-4
14 & Under Girls Doubles	Sofia JOHNSON & Kristina PASKAUSKAITE	Tabitha HOWE & Emma SAWKINGS	RR
14 & Under Mixed Doubles	Harvey CONWAY & Emma SAWKINGS	Kristopher JOHNSON & Sofia JOHNSON	6-3, 6-1
16 & Under Boys Singles	Alexander JOCHIM	Michael OWEN	6-4, 6-0
16 & Under Girls Singles	Abby TAYLOR	Maryam WILLIAMS	6-2, 7-5
18 & Under Boys Singles	Alex JUNIPER	Ethan O'Reilly	6-2, 7-6(1)
18 & Under Girls Singles	Olivia PARSON	Daphne PRATT	6-2, 6-2
18 & Under Boys Doubles	Thomas NORWOOD & Ethan O'REILLY	Thomas ANDREWS & Harvey CONWAY	6-2, 6-4
18 & Under Girls Doubles	Natasha MUNDAY & Olivia PARSON	Summer REEVES & Abby TAYLOR	6-4, 7-5
18 & Under Mixed Doubles	Michael OWEN & Abby Taylor	Oscar GORDON-REID & Josephine HOGH	6-3, 3-6, [10-8]
Men's Open Singles	Alex JUNIPER	Sebastian KAY	6-2, 6-2
Women's Open Singles	No event		
Men's Open Doubles	Sebastian KAY & Michael SULEAU	Ravi SAHL & Tim SCHOENERT	w.o.
Women's Open Doubles	Siobhan AIREY & Sophie BOTHAM	Ines PELVANG & Daphne PRATT	RR

Chris Mann
Lead Tournament Referee

Schools Report Primary

It's been another busy year of Primary Schools competition Team events and doubles events. With lots of schools taking part, and over 500 players involved, the competitions had a real buzz about them with some great talent on show. The energy and enthusiasm from the players, parents and teachers was great to see!

Once again, a big thank you to Mary Evans for running the events.

If you would like information about any of next year's competitions then please contact: harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk

Kent Team Competition	WINNING SCHOOL	Kent Annual Doubles Championships	WINNING SCHOOL
Boys Mini Red	Lady Boswell	Boys Mini Red	Lady Boswell 1
Girls Mini Red	Granville	Girls Mini Red	Keston
Boys Mini Orange	New Beacon 1	Boys Mini Orange	New Beacon 2
Girls Mini Orange	Bromley 1	Girls Mini Orange	Bromley High 1
Boys Mini Green	Amherst	Boys Mini Green	Kent College 1
Girls Mini Green	Bromley High 1	Girls Mini Green	Bromley High 2
		Boys Tennis	Lady Joanna

Schools Report Secondary

It has been a great year for Secondary School Competitions this year with 80 schools across Kent taking part allowing 968 players to compete for their school.

The Annual doubles Championships was renamed this year to the 'Emerging Schools' doubles competition, to encourage the less experienced players to take part. This was a great success and will no doubt be bigger and better next year. A big thank you to Chris Doyle from Farringtons School for running this competition.

The Knockout competition took place again this year with bigger numbers than 2014. This lead to a great competition and a fantastic finals day held at Tunbridge Wells LTC. Thank-you to Pat Braams for running this event so efficiently again this year.

And not forgetting the Year 8 & 10 Team Tennis Schools competition that had 133 teams entered with over 500 players. The finals took place at Polo Farm Sports club in conjunction with the Sainsbury's School Games.

Emerging Schools Doubles Competition	WINNING SCHOOL	Knockout Competition	WINNING SCHOOL	Yr. 8 & 10 Team Tennis Schools	WINNING SCHOOL
Yr. 7 & 8 Boys	Sevenoaks	Yr. 8 & below Boys	Beth's Grammar	Yr. 8 & below Boys	Junior Kings
Yr. 7 & 8 Girls	Kent College Pembury	Yr. 8 & below Girls	Sevenoaks	Yr. 8 & below Girls	Highworth Girls
Yr. 9 & 10 Girls	Sevenoaks	Yr. 9 & below Boys	Judd School	Yr. 10 & below Boys	Dover Grammar
		Yr. 9 & below Girls	Sevenoaks	Yr. 10 & below Girls	Highworth Girls
		Yr. 10-13 Boys	Sevenoaks		
		Yr. 10-13 Girls	Sevenoaks		

Kent Inter Schools Finals 2015

Kent College Canterbury Senior Girls team were runners up to Sevenoaks in the final

The finals of the Kent Inter Schools Tennis Competition were held on Friday 26 June 2015 at the Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club, for the sixth year.

In this year's competition there were 89 teams entered from 25 Kent Schools, resulting in 356 students in the 12 – 18 age range playing competitive tennis during the 2015 summer term.

As in the past two years, Sevenoaks School dominated the girl's competition winning all three events. Sevenoaks beat Kent College Canterbury in the Senior girls, Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar in the Intermediate girls and Highworth Grammar School in the Junior girls.

In the boy's competition. Sevenoaks beat Kings School Canterbury in the Senior Boys. Judd beat Norton Knatchbull in the Intermediate Boys and Beths beat Langley Park Boys in the Junior Boys.

Once again the competition was blessed with good weather for the finals which greatly helped to get all the matches played on time.

I wish to thank Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club for their continued support of the Kent Schools Tennis Competition by providing the courts and facilities to stage the finals. Thanks also to Laura Byers, the Club Manager for presenting the trophies.

The Kent LTA supports this competition by providing balls and trophies for the finals and without this support the competition would not be able to continue.

Pat Braam
Competition Organiser

Road to Wimbledon 2015

Congratulations to Louis Johnston (BTC & Blackheath) and Daria Miszta (Tonbridge LTC) who won Kent's County 'Road to Wimbledon' Final 2015. In the Kent final Louis beat Ciaran Brewer (Canterbury High School & Appeti Tennis Centre) 4-1 4-1 and Daria beat Tabitha Howe (Sevenoaks LTC) 4-2, 2-4 (1-0). Their prize is a place in the National 'Road to Wimbledon' Finals on the grass courts at The All England Club 10 – 15 August.

The Road to Wimbledon is one of the largest junior competitions in British Tennis and it gives aspiring young players the opportunity to progress through to the world famous grass courts in SW19. This year in Kent, 27 clubs and 9 schools ran events. The winners and some runners-up were then invited to play in the County Finals, which were held indoors at Bromley Tennis Centre over the weekend of 11th & 12th July. Well done to all competitors who played over the weekend. All players in the County final received a cap and water bottle provided by the event sponsors HSBC. A big thank-you to Susan Finch for running the 2015 County Finals this year.

There is also an international 'Road to Wimbledon' event and many congratulations to Harvey Conway (Parklangley Club & BTC), Sasha Hill (Parklangley & BTC) and Emma Raducanu (BTC) who qualified from the regional event to compete in the International 'Road to Wimbledon' finals also between 10-15 August.

Sandi Procter

Living the Dream

Ouch! If you pinch yourself that hard that often, a girl could end up black and blue. But when you find yourself and two of your very besties, dressed all in white, sipping champagne and reflecting on your glorious play on the carpet-like grass surface on Court 9 at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, can you blame me for experiencing a feeling of dreaming?

And as for the moment I'm asked if "Madam would like her bath drawn?" and I find myself luxuriating in bubbles in a receptacle which may well have cupped Serena's rear sometime in its recent past – what can I say. The Sue Barker moments, in the Royal Box at Centre court and interviewing in the press panel room, make me wonder how many dreams can be rolled into a single day.

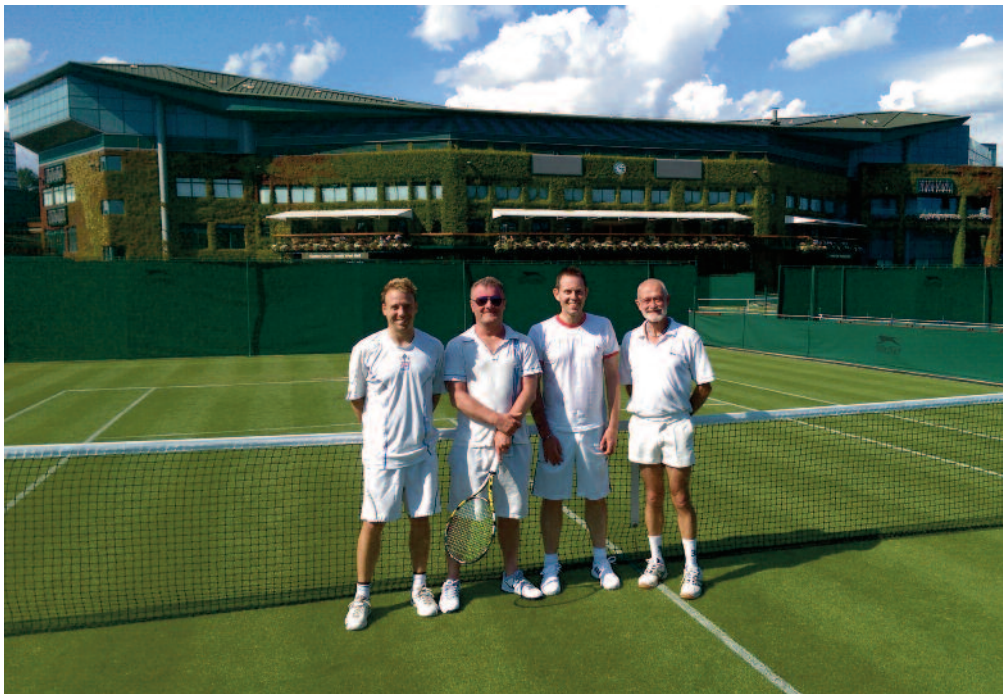
I recommend the tour of the facilities, including the Wimbledon Museum, to any tennis lovers. Not least the chance to see the wonderful setting without tens of thousands of other spectators.

We will be eternally grateful to Martin Guntrip, Club Director, for organising our superb day and Dan Bloxham, Head Coach, for a super lesson – who says old dogs can't learn new tricks.

Our anniversary celebration event – Sundridge Park ladies are winners at Wimbledon!

Penny Ypma

A Perfect Day in SW19



On 22 August, 3 lucky members of Sydenham's Tennis Committee, Jeff Richards, Gary Lord, and Peter Lewis, enjoyed a red letter day "Wimbledon Playing Experience" which our club won in the Kent County's 125th Anniversary Prize Draw earlier in the year.

At mid-day we arrived excited but also apprehensive to be warmly greeted by our brilliant host, Jim May, former Kent doubles champion, who soon put us at ease. First stop was the men's locker room reserved for All England Club members and seeded competitors at the annual championships. Then through the walk of fame which took us past the famous silverware to the players' entrance to centre court. Over the entrance, we read the quotation from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If":

"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same..."

Jim led us on to the excellent Museum where we saw loads more silverware and learned not only the history of the world's favourite tennis tournament but also the history of croquet. Proudly, we noted that in the 1860s the first open croquet tournaments took place much closer to home, in the grounds of the newly opened Crystal Palace. (The antecedents of our own tennis and croquet club also played in the Palace grounds before moving to our current site in 1898.)

After the Museum, Jim led us back to the locker room to don our obligatory tennis "whites" and out to grass court no.9. An injury earlier in the week prevented Jim from playing but Rob Searle, Kent County Teams Captain, generously volunteered to take his place completing our four. Court 9 is located in the middle of the first block of outside courts and just playing there on immaculate grass (well apart from the base-lines) on one of the hottest afternoons of summer was such a treat. With Jim acting as ball-boy, Rob ensured that we were all thoroughly warmed up before playing a very competitive set resulting in a narrow 6-4 win for Jeff and Peter.

After a quick shower and change into our "smart casuals", Jim led us on an extensive tour of the grounds including the newly re-built court 2 (highly recommended viewing next July), Murray Mount or whatever it's called these days, and finally we came inside the Royal Box on centre court. And as if that was not enough excitement for one afternoon, Jim took us to the Members' Lounge for a well-earned tea (silver service, of course).

Thanks must go to Jim and Rob for being such inspirational hosts; to Martin Guntrip and his colleagues at the All England Club and Kent County LTA who contributed the amazing "Wimbledon Playing Experience" prizes to the Draw; and to Sydenham's own Board who bought the tickets ruling that any prize should be balloted within our Tennis Committee as a very special thank you to volunteers.

Yes, a triumph, indeed!

Peter Lewis

Kent Tennis 125 Year Celebration Ball at Wimbledon

Oh what a night!

16th May 2015

An unforgettable evening of entertainment, music, and delicious food in the prestigious Courtside suite of the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Greeted by the 'Wimbledon Butler' I65 Guests from all corners of Kent enjoyed a champagne reception on the balcony overlooking the grass courts, and met up with their tennis pals and rivals from around the county. An array of Kent memorabilia was displayed and lots of fun was had trying to recognise past legends young and old!

Guests were seated at tables named after some of our great Kentish legends from Wilberforce Eaves who reached the men's singles finals 3 times and played at Wimbledon from 1890-1911, to more recent players Jim May and Colin Beecher. Colin and Jim were amongst the guests and we were honoured to have Cathie Sabin LTA President join us. A delicious Kentish Dinner followed; fine meat, cheese and produce sourced from Kent accompanied by wine from Chapel Down in Tenterden. Beautifully prepared and served by the outstanding staff at Wimbledon.

Entertainment continued throughout the meal, everyone enjoying the banter and participating in the party antics led by the 'Wimbledon Butler' who appeared to have 'insider knowledge' on numerous guests! After dinner there were guest appearances by Freddie Mercury, and Austin Powers and the dance floor was packed all evening.

Many guests have told us it was a fantastic and unforgettable evening and as one guest said 'this event should dispel the image that KLTA events are staid and boring because the 125th Anniversary event definitely was not!'

A picture speaks a thousand words - please enjoy a few chosen that give a flavour of the evening and that show the fun and enjoyment had by all.

Anna Wilson

Anyone who would like to see more pictures from the evening contact Claire Lilley in the Kent Office.

2

2000s

North Kent Finals

The late English playwright and composer Noel Coward once wrote quite an amusing hit song entitled “Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the mid-day sun”. Wonder what the great man would have written about the 2015 North Kent Tennis Finals which took place at the Bromley CC on Sunday July 26th when the players played through continuous rain and wind from noon to late evening. I doubt if the word mad could be applied to tennis players going out in the mid-day rain nowadays in this political correct world. Let us start then by congratulating the competitors who played on the two available hardcourts and simply ignored the miserable conditions. And not forgetting, the brave band of supporters who left the comfort of the clubhouse with their umbrellas and plastic macs seeking shelter under any available tree to watch the proceedings. Finally, those gallant band of umpires and lines people who definitely earned their fees on a dull wet grey afternoon.

Tournament referee Jeff Richards gave the go ahead to the Tournament, and the courts, despite the heavy drizzle drained well and I saw no player slip or fall over during any match. Sydenham won their first ever North Kent title when Omar Prince claimed the boys 14 and under title. Omar beat Shooters Hill Mylan Roberts 6-1, 6-2. Shooters Hill were runners up also in the Girls 14 and under when Kalea Moore lost 6-2 6-0 to Graveshams Molly Jones. The Ladies Singles featured Katy Taylor from the Crescent club winner of the title in 2012 and 2013 and up against Catherine Darby representing Bromley Wendover. This resulted in a hard fought three set match with a confident Miss Darby taking the first set 6-2. The second set produced wonderful tennis, with plenty of great rallies that eventually led to the vital tie break. It was at this point that Miss Taylor appeared to take control and once taking the tie break she looked the stronger and more fired up player to take the title. And so it proved to be as she swept forward to take the deciding set 6-3. Great final and great credit to both Ladies for ignoring the elements. The Mens final introduced two players whose names were unfamiliar to those of us who have witnessed North Kent finals down the years. In the wet corner Tim Schoenert from the Bexley Club and in the even wetter corner Richard Fay representing Shooters Hill. Bexley have a great North Kent record and won the singles five years running 1998 to 2002. Shooters Hill and Ray Sherman won it for them three years in a row in the wooden rackets era 1963/1965 and their last success was in 1987 when Simon Devaux beat Welcomes Richard Howard. This years final was a tough tussle in the rain with Fay clinching both sets 7-5 7-5 breaking Schoenerts serve at five all in both sets. Once again both men ignored the dismal weather and gave of their best in front of a small but appreciative group of supporters huddled together like lost sheep... cue the music - raindrops keep falling on my head

On to the Ladies doubles and the unbeaten champions from Blackheath, Kate Hands and Nayla Solh bidding to win an all time record of six in a row titles. Facing this dynamic duo came Shooters Hill Karen Attard and Maria Perfect. The result was never in doubt and Kate and Nayla romped home in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. Six in a row is a marvellous record and lucky seven is the next target come 2016. The Mens title followed a similar pattern after Adam Chapman and Ravi Salh from Bexley surprised onlookers by taking the first set 6-3 from the seasoned pairing of Joe Edwards and Kaan Basaran of the Bromley Wendover club. What happened next? Joe and Kaan moved into top gear and took the next two sets 6-1, 6-2 to give Mr Basaran his eleventh win in eleven finals. Quite a record from a man who won the singles crown way back in 2000 when he beat John Shepherd from Gravesham. The Mixed final was a more closer contest involving from Blackheath Adrian Blanaru and Jillian Henderling and from Bexley Dave Smyth and Dinah Shue. Blackheath won the tie 7-5 6-1 to collect their second victory of the afternoon.

North Kent chairman Phil Lynch is fast becoming the king of North Kent veterans tennis. He won the doubles title in 2011 with Arun Vethakkan, won it with Jeff Richards in 2012 and 2013 all representing HSBC. In 2014 he won it for Bromley Wendover again with Jeff Richards and this year he made it five in a row, this time with Kevin Dewick by his side. It wasn’t all easy going though and they lost the first set to Rob Andrew and Ken Stewart of the Knoll club 6-3. Wake up time for our esteemed chairman and Man Utd fan. Sure enough, up, up and away went Phil and Kevin and took the next two sets rather comfortably 6-1, 6-1. Long live the king.

The final event of the afternoon, the Ladies Veterans doubles threw up a first North Kent Cup win for the Parklangley Club who sent out an experienced pair in Sandra Webster and Zena Wisdom. Sandra and Zena had dumped out the second seeds Bexley en route to the final. This time it was the No 1 seeds from Shooters Hills Diana Roberts and Jane Ellis. Sandra and Zena took the game by the scruff of the neck from

Veterans Seniors Grass Court of Great Britain

the start and they ran out worthy winners in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. A well deserved victory to end an afternoon where all the players were heroes in defying the wettest North Kent Finals day that most people can ever remember.

Austin Smith, Kent President, kindly came along to present the trophies in the comfort of the clubhouse. Bromley CC were wonderful hosts and provided delicious food on a day when old man Sol failed to appear and let players and spectators avail of their well prepared grass courts and top class viewing balcony. Pity about the weather remarked Referee Jeff Richards as I headed home musing on the Jane Morgan song "Le jour ou la pluie vienda".

Denis Costelloe

This years championships were held at Wimbledon in mid August and featured several Kent players. The age groups start at 35 years and go right up to Mens 85 and over and Ladies 80 years and over. Kent had two winners, Anne Williams from the Knoll Club Orpington partnering June Pearce won the 80 Doubles and Helen Jary of Hartley CC with Marcia Ackers of the David Lloyd Club Dartford fought out a thrilling 75 Doubles final where they defeated Ann Finch and Elizabeth Simmons 6-3, 7-6. Also competing in the Mens 85 and over was Victor Simms from Sundridge Park who had terrific battle against Richard Roberts where he narrowly lost 4-6, 6-7. Roberts went on to win the title but as results showed, his score or should I say his scare against our Victor was by far the toughest match he had. Victor Simms now 86 years of age sends out a wonderful message to all tennis players throughout Kent and beyond. Tennis is a sport that one can play for well over four decades. The trick is to play all the year around, try and avoid injuries, Play to win, but above all to enjoy the game. Well done Victor Simms and to the lady by your side, your wife Betty for her support.

East Kent Championship

For East Kent it marks the end of the summer East Kent Leagues and competitors from Bearsted &Thurnham LTC, Broadstairs & St. Peters LTC, Canterbury LTC, Deal ITC, Herne Bay and Hythe took part in the one day Mens and Ladies Doubles Event. By 10am the spectator's area was packed to full capacity and they were treated to some exceptional, high quality tennis that was on display from the opening match that saw defending ladies champions Nicola Mileham and Sue Toye (Herne Bay) against County Veteran stalwarts Elke Gardner (Canterbury) and Myra Hunter (Bearsted). Mileham and Toye raced away to a 3-0 lead before Gardner and Hunter managed to get on the score board, they won the next game and changed ends with the defending Champions 3-2 up. The next two games went to Mileham and Toye as they moved ahead 5-2 and the writing was on the wall as they served for the match.

Their opponents raised their game in what turned out to be the longest game of the match as Gardner and Hunter defended every point as though their lives depended on it. After numerous deuces they finally took the game and the following game to change ends at 5-4 with Mileham serving. Another match point came and went in this game and suddenly it was five all.

Mileham and Toye moved ahead again to 6-5 but the County Vets duo kept fighting back and levelled the score again to force a tie-break. After a tense struggle, in increasing tension Gardner and Hunter kept their nerve to clinch the breaker 7-4 and the first match of the day.

This turned out to be the format of the day in the Ladies draw as many high quality matches were played that saw the initiative change hands as often as the players changed ends. However, while all the excitement was going on there was one pair that was quietly coming through all their matches, Jo Moore and Nicola Hill (Hythe) the runners-up from last year had a tough match to start as they were 0-3 down to Bays Anne Gibbs and Danielle Miles and were forced to dig deep before they finally turned the tables to take the match 7-5.

They came through their next matches with relative ease until their final match when they were up against their own Sharon Keyhaya (Hythe) and Angela Townsend (Broadstairs). Everybody was interested in this match, the last of the day as they all knew win or lose Moore and Hill could not be beaten but if Kehaya and Townsend were to win it would affect the second placings as three pairs would then be placed with the same amount of wins.

This turned out to be another epic encounter that left the spectators on the edge of their seats as Moore and Hill served for the match at 5-4 only to see Kehaya and Townsend stage a come-back as they levelled at five all but Moore and Hill served for the match again at 6-5 and this time secured their victory and claimed the ladies title having come through all their matches unbeaten. The runners-up were Elke Gardner and Myra Hunter with the result being decided on their head-to-head.

The Men's event was more one sided with Deal's Thomas Churchill and Andrew Symmonds defeating everyone in their box with relative ease. Their closest match was against Herne Bay's Graham Miles and Alex Kazakeos that had some lengthy rallies mixed with some fast and furious net play that saw the Deal duo drop three games which was the most the entire day. Miles and Kazakeos was the day's Runners-Up.

Vanessa Webb

Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club 2015

Once again this year the Tunbridge Wells Lawn Tennis Club has had a very busy time, not just socially but from the many competitions that have been held throughout the year. With membership well into the 800's a lot of activity needs to be created to keep everyone happy!

Currently the Club fields 26 teams in the Kent League, 4 in the Maidstone League, 2 senior and 12 junior Aegon teams. In 2015 the Club hosted 4 major week long tournaments, two junior events, one veteran's and the Ladies County Cup. It takes a lot of effort and dedication by the organisers to run these events, so it was heartening to see that they were all well supported by the competitors and continued Tunbridge Wells reputation for organising good events. Fortunately the Club has 21 courts, 10 of which are floodlit, at its disposal which not only allows us to organise a lot of competition (which members want) but also allows time and space for social tennis where some member's needs are not quite as exacting as those who wish for competition.

Also running during the summer months were the Club's own Championships. This competition is open to all full members and takes in 32 different classes ranging from nine year olds to super veterans, a class added this year. The competition starts in May when the grass is available (being a grass court tournament) with the day of finals in mid July. A good entry of 50 competitors was received in the men's open singles, and slightly lower at 42 entries, in the men's handicap singles.

Finals Day could not have been better with warm sunshine and light winds all day, complete with 100 spectators who came to witness some very good tennis indeed. The men's final was played on the Club's number 1 grass court between club coach Charlie Gibson and new member Nick Armstrong. The first set could really have gone either way with some long rallies and at times some breathtaking shots. It was thought at one point that Nick would have beaten the defending champion in the first set, but Charlie managed to grab it in the tie-break – he then went on to win the second set 6-2. It was a good day for Charlie as he later won the mixed open event with partner Ellen Cramer Todd beating Jonathan Yates and Sophie George 6-1 6-4. Nick Armstrong was not to be out done however as he and his partner Anen Ganesan won the men's open event against the club's Head Coach Tom Aydon and Jason Baker 6-4 6-2.

There were 10 ladies competing for the singles title and it ended with a straight forward win by Ali Fleming over Mary Elder 6-1 6-1. The men's handicap final was a win for Rob Scramler beating Jack Pavey 7-5 6-4. Included on the day were some of the junior finals and the boys 18u was the longest of the day taking two and a half hours. It was another match that featured Jack Pavey who this time took on Max Ringer. It was a fine match with Max recording the win at 6-4 6-7 7-5.

The Club Championships are hugely popular with members and always attract large entries, running over 3 months it is essential to maintain the deadlines of each round. This year everyone was very good at completing their matches on time without too much chasing.

Having got the summer out of the way, the Club now switches to winter mode when apart from the Kent and Maidstone matches it also runs a 'snooker ball league' This has nothing to do with snooker, but we use the colours of snooker to determine the various levels of the leagues. For example, black was the top division with red being the lowest. As the event has become more popular over the years we have had to double up and create more titles for the divisions. This year we have 24 divisions with 5 players (men and women) playing singles through the winter, a total of 120 – as I said earlier we are fortunate to have 21 courts available!

Wye Tennis Club

Graham Sutherland (Club Chairman) addressing members with Sports Minister Rt. Hon. Tracey Crouch, M.P., seated in blue, to her left Jennie Price, CEO of Sport England and Rt. Hon Damian Green, M.P.

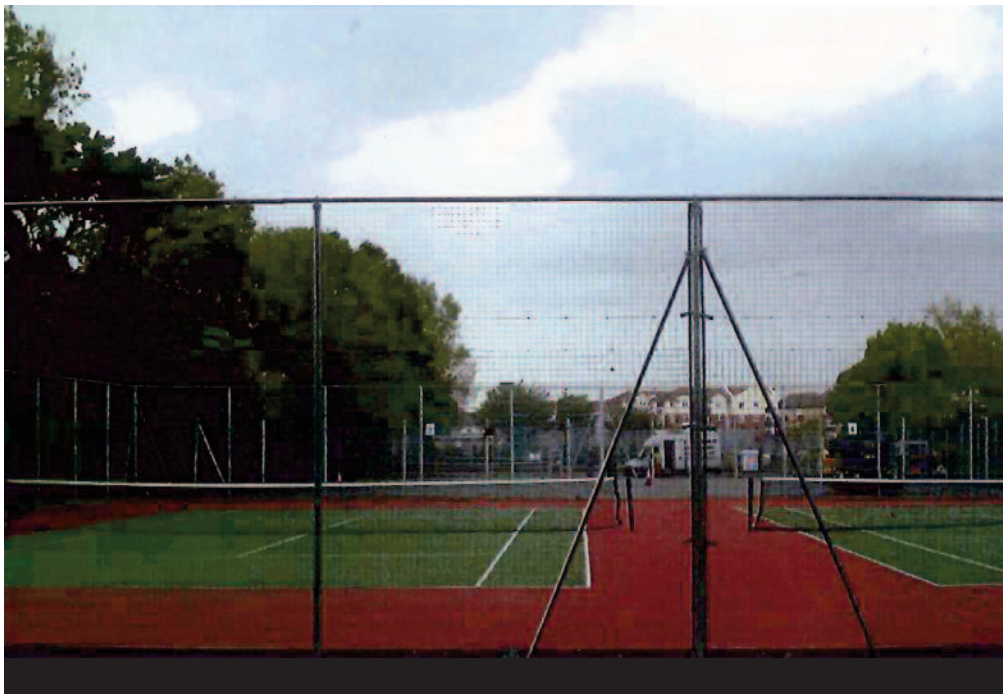
Wye Tennis Club near Ashford were pleased to host a visit by Sports Minister, Tracey Crouch, Jennie Price, CEO of Sport England and Club Patron, Rt Hon. Damian Green, M.P. The purpose of the visit was to see a good example of a grassroots, community club and to fact find as to whether Ashford would be suitable to have an indoor tennis centre. Club Chairman, Graham Sutherland, in his address, advised that Wye Tennis Club's membership had increased over the past five years from 149 to 402. Every improvement in the Club had resulted in attracting new members. Instead of having just one coach doing ten hours a week, there were now three, coaching for more than 80 hours each week. Instead of just 50, we now had 300 children receiving weekly coaching. Bethersden Tennis Club, under the direction of Head Coach, Tom Carlton were also totally maxed out.

The main thrust of Graham's argument in favour of an indoor tennis centre was first of all the Council have pledged a marvellous site worth over £500k which is within three miles of 60,000 residents. At the moment the Council only provide two run down courts for its 130,000 borough residents. Anyone wishing to play tennis has to travel six miles out of town to one of four village clubs. Graham suggested that many people shared his view that if Ashford was not careful, it would end up as a huge housing estate in the centre of Kent with a retail outlet and very few affordable leisure facilities. There are over 10,000 Primary School children in Ashford. The words 'Get Inspired' must not just be a soundbite. A child cannot be inspired to play tennis if there is no tennis court to play on.

Damian Green spoke of his support for our aspirations and acknowledged the growth of Wye Tennis since he became Club Patron in 2007. Jennie Price was deeply impressed by what had been achieved at Wye and indicated that she would arrange for her team to help with a feasibility study for an indoor tennis centre. Tracey spoke very warmly about the school links which had resulted in so many juniors joining the Club and attaining such a good level of play and also the quality of our facilities.

Graham Sutherland

Herne Bay Tennis Club



The first record of Herne Bay Tennis Club was at its tournament in 1891 played on courts in the grounds of a Christian Fellowship Holiday Hotel off Canterbury. Its first inter-club match was played there against Bolton Fields on June 27th 1898.

The Tennis Club then moved to various sites in the town before settling in 1930 on the ten council courts in Herne Bays Memorial Park. It remained there until 1975, when the Tennis Club combined with the Herne Bay Hockey Club in a joint move to the Kent Close, Beacon Road where they still are today.

Originally, the Hockey Club played on an Astroturf Pitch and the Tennis Club on four clay courts next to it. However, the clay courts were to prove such high maintenance and were generally unsatisfactory that it was later decided to use six temporary courts erected on the Astroturf Hockey pitch in the summer, and in the winter played matches on courts hired in Whitstable with club sessions held back at their original site Memorial Park.

That arrangement continued until 2003 when four absorbent acrylic tennis courts replaced the unused former clay courts and remain in all year round use to this day.

Herne Bay Tennis Photos

Photo Above: A view from Spencer Road of the top 2 of 8 Tennis Courts in Herne Bay Memorial Park. A total of ten courts on the same site were in use during the famous Open Tournament held there three days before the Great War began in 1914.

Photo Above Right: A view from Courts 3&4 of the current 8 courts in the Herne Bay Memorial Park taken today. The council are currently resurfacing these courts with courts 5&6 being resurfaced as this photo was taken.

Photo Right: Is a photo taken in 2005 of the newly laid courts at Herne Bay Tennis Club in their Beacon Road site. The new courts were officially opened in June 2003.

Lionel Hoskins

The Herne Bay Lawn Tennis Club.
VICTORIA PARK GROUND.
— OPEN —
LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT
JULY 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, 1914,
COMMENCING EACH DAY AT 10 A.M.
Programme.
NETS, BALLS &c., SUPPLIED BY SLAZENGERS.
Light Luncheons and Teas provided on Ground by a Committee of Ladies of the Club.
Ladies' Cloak Room— "The Laurels," (opposite entrance gate).
Men's Cloak Room— 7, The Grove, Herne Bay.
PRICE 4d.

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Kent Tennis News Articles - If you want the publicity, it is up to you to send us your news, we're always happy to receive submissions.

Guidelines for Website News:

1. A heading eg: 'Kent U14 Girls - National Champions'
2. 1-10 words for the front page to entice people to open the article eg: 'Kent Men Cup County Champions'
3. Up to 100 words about the topic.
4. A photo – this is a must, with captions and names.
5. Be aware that Kent News stays on the front page for one week only. LTA Central Media says news older than a week is old news and so it disappears from the front page but still can be found by clicking on the news tab.

To clarify how this differs from an article for the KLT.

Guidelines for the KLT:

We are now publishing the newsletter in print and electronically two times per year in May and October in an effort to keep the news and results as up to date as possible, as well as continuing with some of the features that have remained popular over the years.
In general terms an article of 300 words will constitute a full page with 600 words making a double page spread. Please remember that people don't generally want to read huge slabs of text. Make the article light and entertaining bringing it to life with a picture or two, which must have either a caption, names or both.

Please send your submissions to: kltnews@silvester.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition is 31st March 2016

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