

# REVIEW OF 2023





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# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by  
*Peter Bradshaw*

Distinguishing luck from skill is difficult in some games, but not in tennis. Tennis traditionally ranks amongst the top 5 most skilful sports. You need speed, footwork, hand-eye co-ordination as well as mental resolve. Whatever your level of play, these don't come easily, but with practice you can get a little bit better, which in essence, is what the Surrey Tennis has been trying to do during 2023, whilst also hopefully having some fun!

Fun was very much in evidence at the Surrey County Championships this year. These were held on the beautiful grass courts at AELTC Community Sports Ground. This was an inspirational backdrop to watch some incredible tennis on show across the eight days. If the smiles were anything to go by, everyone appeared to be having a wonderful time. Not only that, but we had a record turnout with 465 singles and 106 doubles entries. A very big thank you to Wimbledon for being such incredible hosts – we look forward to repeating the amazing experience next



year. Outside our core role of administering and delivering tennis, we had one hugely important project this year. You may not be aware that Surrey Tennis has been in existence for 125 years. To ensure our survival for the next 125 years, one of our goals this year was to ensure we have the correct structures for the 21st century. Significant portions of our Council meetings this year has been spent preparing for our Incorporation as a Charity. A change in our legal structure should help protect the county in future years. It should be added that the entire process has been about as much fun as a visit to the dentist! However, I would personally like to give a heartfelt thanks to our Treasurer Lynne Hunt who has led the 'trench-warfare' from start to finish. The goals for 2024 are threefold - to focus on our Inclusion Plan as part of 'Tennis Opened Up', streamline our IT and office processes in line with the tighter governance that come with incorporation, and finally to improve communications with our venues which will also include the upcoming launch of a Surrey Tennis Quarterly newsletter.

“ ———  
**Good sportsmanship goes beyond the game, creating respect. That is the positive culture we are building at Surrey Tennis.**  
————— ”



Once again, I would like to thank the entire Council for all their hard work and effort this year. We have six operating committee groups that help drive the tennis agenda across the County - Awards, Coaches, Commercial, Competitions, Venues and Performance. Please read their detailed reports below. We have a diverse Council, all with very different skills, whose aim is to promote Surrey Tennis and ensure it operates smoothly. They continue to launch new initiatives to make tennis more relevant, accessible, and welcoming to players of all backgrounds and standards. This has helped create a vibrant Surrey Tennis network of 63,000 players, 450 coaches and 200+ venues. None of what we do would be possible without the professionalism of the Surrey Tennis Office team who, as ever, have been focussed on day-to-day delivery to all the various Surrey Tennis stake-holders. They help grow tennis by making it welcoming, accessible and enjoyable. The good news is that there are more teams playing tennis in Surrey than ever, links to coaches, venues, and officials are strong and improving. Our strength in social networking and digital delivery plays a massive part in promoting and unifying the Surrey Tennis brand. A heartfelt thanks to Debbie Slater, Tim Sagar, Lewis Woodham, Mandy Spicer, Justin Sherring, Julie Duckworth, and Chris Risebro. As ever, we would also like to give a big shout-out to the amazing c. 2,500 volunteers and other individuals across the county who generously give their time to our sport. I'd like to end

with my most memorable act of sportsmanship in 2023. As you're aware, one of Surrey's finest (aka Joe Salisbury), managed to seal a historic US Open hat-trick of doubles titles. During the tight final match, a cross-court forehand from one of their opponents grazed his partners right arm before crossing the net for a winner. No-one noticed. But the player (Bopanna) immediately called himself out, telling the referee that the ball had touched him. Joe's long-time partner Rajiv Ram pointed out in the ceremony what a great act of sportsmanship it was, saying "You are an inspiration to all of us". Good sportsmanship goes beyond the game, creating respect. That is the positive culture we are building at Surrey Tennis.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by  
*Derek Howorth*

It is amazing to think that this will be our last and 127th annual report as an unincorporated association, I am personally delighted that we are able to put proposals to members to transfer our assets into and incorporate as an unlimited charitable company. The amount of work to achieve this has been immense, Many people have been involved, but particular thanks must go to Lynne Hunt, our treasurer, who has carried by far the biggest burden. My only regret is that our member clubs and venues can no longer be formal members. However, this has been necessary to avoid an almost impossible administrative burden to comply with companies and charities legislation. We have been able to set it up in a way that ensures those who would previously been members will be able to vote on the appointment of directors and approve all major decisions as before.

As far as I am concerned there have been two major Surrey tennis highlights this year. Firstly, the success of our mens' team in winning group 1 at county week at Eastbourne. Mark Whitehouse and his team had an outstanding week in difficult weather conditions and it gave me enormous pleasure to see them being presented with the trophy. Secondly Surrey player, Joe Salisbury's achievement in winning the US open doubles for a third consecutive year is an incredible achievement and the first time it has been done for more than 100 years.

Jack Draper has had a difficult year due to a string of injuries but when he has been able to play he has demonstrated his enormous promise. Jodie Burrage must also be congratulated on an outstanding year and being ranked no. 2 in GB

Our county teams generally have had another outstanding year and although it has not been officially announced Surrey have regained their title as overall



county champions after coming a very close second last year. That is without taking into account of our senior age group teams who have, yet again, finished as by far the most successful county. Many thanks to everyone involved as player, captain or coach. It is an honour to represent your county and you have done your county proud.

It is worth mentioning that the junior teams have again done spectacularly well and this is in no small part due to the high national rankings of many of our top junior players. As of 27 October no less than 10 girls and boys were ranked in the top 5 and 4 were ranked no. 1. These players are Oliver Bonding (no.1 16U, no. 2 18U), Hannah Klugman (no.1 14U, no. 2 16U, no.5 18U) Liv Zingg (no.1 12U), Ginny Chen (no.1 11U), Isabelle Lacey (no.4 18U), Mark Ceban (no.3 16U), Max Carrier (no.5 16U), Ciara Moore (no.5 16U), Rosie Cho (no.3 14U) and Sophia Cunninghame (no.5 11U). Congratulations to them all and all our junior team players. The success is in no small part due to our county training programme led by our county performance officer Justin Sherring. Our office staff have continued their excellent work from their offices in Esher High Street. Our fantastic team of Councillors continue to come up with ideas to help clubs and other venues. Many thanks to them all.

Surrey Tennis is in good hands and will continue to support the national aims of the LTA. Our excellent web-site and social media platforms should be the first ports of call for anyone wanting to keep in touch with what is going on

in Surrey Tennis. Lewis in the office does a fantastic job in keeping this going and also in preparing this fantastic report. Our junior charitable trust continues to thrive and during the last year made grants totalling £30,050 to 69 of our most talented Junior players.

## THE JUNIOR TRUST

The Surrey LTA Junior Trust is a registered charity set up to be able to give financial support to promising juniors who represent the County in inter-county competitions. Tennis is an expensive sport to play competitively. Our best juniors have extensive coaching costs as well as travel both nationally and internationally. The trustees want to help as much as possible

We received another donation of £30,000 from The Vernon Ely Charitable Trust during the year and the trustees are grateful to them for their continuing support. This donation has been added to the capital fund that generates income to allow us to make these grants. This income increased by 7% to just over £32,700 for the year.

If anyone is interested in making donations small or large to help this good cause, please contact the County office. Any donations made can be increased with gift aid and the donor can themselves receive 20% tax relief on donations made.



**PLAYER SUCCESS** *Jodie Burrage celebrates against Coco Gauff (left). Hannah Klugman & Isabelle Lacy runners up at Junior Wimbledon*



# A *note* FROM THE OFFICE



## TIM SAGAR

*Tennis Development Manager*

Surrey Tennis has continued to support our local tennis community in 2023. In my role as Tennis Development Manager, I work closely with our registered venues, accredited coaches, the LTA and other key stakeholders to ensure our support is targeted in the right areas. I also work with our Councillors and committees to devise and implement the Surrey Tennis strategy. I can support venues on a variety of things that impact the day to day running of their club. This includes: the Surrey loan scheme, facilities and funding advice and forums that bring people together to share best practice. I oversee the Surrey Coaches Group, which provides coaches with access to local and subsidised CPD and first aid courses, coaching equipment offers via our portal, and access to our bursary scheme. I will also visit our venues and coaches and/or arrange online meetings where we can discuss areas specifically relating to your venue and/or coaching programme, so please do get in contact if you would like to arrange a meeting soon. As well as local venue and coach support, I also take a lead on Disability Tennis, Safeguarding and Padel. To get Any questions, please get in touch – [tim.sagar@surreytennis](mailto:tim.sagar@surreytennis)

## DEBORAH SLATER

*Office Manager*

The office is run by the following team of full and part-timers:

Debbie Slater – Office Manager (F/T)

Tim Sagar – Tennis Development Manager (F/T)

Lewis Woodham – Brand Manager (P/T)

Chris Risebro – Finance Manager (Consultant)

Mandy Spicer – Competitions Administrator (F/T)

Julie Duckworth – Competitions Assistant – Schools (P/T).

Between us all, we cover a vast range of topics to grow county tennis – from players, parents, coaches, to clubs/venues and anyone else interested in tennis or padel.

We support our 14 volunteer councillors by attending meeting and implementing their goals, whether that is hosting forums in clubs, setting up first aid courses, entering

county cup teams and processing their expense claims, setting up all the county specific and schools competitions and supporting the league volunteers, payment of tournament subsidies, preparing social media posts, running the County Championships, planning the yearly Awards Ceremony and Annual General Meeting, multiple Council Meetings, liaising with the LTA, assisting with county training and general queries, and a host of other things, too many to mention. In March we moved across the hall to a bigger office in the same Esher building, meaning we now have our storage on-site.

We are always open to suggestions, so if you think there is a way we can better support you or your club, a topic your club would like to know more about, some information you would like to see on our website, etc, please use the contact us forms on our website or email [admin@surreytennis](mailto:admin@surreytennis).

## LEWIS WOODHAM

*Brand Manager*

In 2023, Surrey Tennis has experienced remarkable growth, solidifying its presence in the British tennis scene.

Our 2023 brand strategy, centered on enhancing visibility at Surrey events, has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from players, parents, clubs, and coaches. This approach has fostered a more cohesive experience at all our Surrey events. Our digital presence has seen significant success, with a standout achievement of reaching 3,000 followers on Instagram. Surrey Tennis maintains an active presence on Instagram, X, LinkedIn, and Facebook, so be sure to follow us for the latest updates and news!

Looking ahead to 2024, we are excited to introduce new initiatives that will further expand the Surrey Tennis brand. January will mark the debut of 'The Surrey Tennis Quarterly,' our new newsletter designed to engage more deeply with our audience. Additionally, we're thrilled to announce the upcoming release of our brand-new Surrey Tennis merchandise!

For any inquiries, feel free to reach out to me at [lewis.woodham@surreytennis](mailto:lewis.woodham@surreytennis). Stay tuned for more exciting developments from Surrey Tennis.



# PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

## R E P O R T

by  
*Doug Clare*

It's another outstanding year for our Surrey coaches and players, I can already announce that, despite the fact that the Winter County Cup has not been played yet, Surrey has an unassailable lead and cannot be caught in the County Race. After winning in 2021 and coming second to Yorkshire last year, we are the County Race Champions once again. Bring on the celebration party!

How does this happen? It all starts with our County Performance Manager Justin Sherring who sets up the County Training sessions and selects great coaches to run these training sessions. Currently we have over 220 players involved with 30 coaches running the sessions. We hold an inspiring County Welcome Day each September for U8s where we introduce our young players to County tennis and if they are ready, they are selected for

County Training. If they are not ready, players are not discarded but always watched and as their results improve they will be included into the training fold.

From our County Training coaches and their knowledge of the players in training, the County Cup team captains and assistant captains are selected to run the County Cup teams. There are 15 teams with ages ranging from U9s to U18s, run by 30 captains who are involved in the player selection, training and performance. It is a 'monster' of organisation but the proof is in the pudding and with another County Race title under our belt Surrey are becoming the Manchester City of County tennis! However the County Race does not only involve the Juniors, it also includes Surrey's best senior players in the Summer and Winter County Cup plus the Over 35s event.



In the Over 35s our Ladies, captained by Candy Harrop, had a difficult year. Our men retained their Champions title and congratulations go to their captain Blake Hutchins and his team.

In our search for the next generation please watch out for our junior Surrey stars of the future, namely Isabelle Lacy, Giulia Lesa, Ollie Bonding, Mark Ceban, Jamie Diack and Max Carrier with special congratulations to Hannah Klugman who now has a WTA ranking of 734 aged 14. Our up and coming pros have also had a good year as shown by their world rankings : Emily Appleton is at 386, Arthur Fery has climbed to 268, Lily Miyazaki has had a great year and is now 191.

Finally we come to our Surrey Superstars, with special congratulations to Jodie Burrage who is into the Top 100 at 91 and playing for GB in the Billie Jean King Cup. Jack Draper has fully recovered from his early season injury and is steadily climbing the rankings to 82, having just won the Bergamo Challenger event. While Joe Salisbury who, after a disappointing season of doubles with Rajiv Ram, only goes and wins the US Open for the third time running!

In 2023 we introduced our Coach of the Quarter where the spotlight falls on one of our great coaches and demonstrates their exceptional commitment and dedication to our next generation of Surrey players. I would like to congratulate Jono Ward, Alison Taylor and Tom Burns for achieving this accolade. Keep working hard with your performance players and it could be you next? We have introduced a Surrey Coach Support Fund whereby our Performance Coaches can apply for financial help to travel and support our Junior performance players. Please just email me to ask about how this works. We have also started a Surrey Player Support Fund where we will try to help players that are struggling to fund themselves. For more information on this email [performance@surrey.tennis](mailto:performance@surrey.tennis).

“  
**Surrey are becoming the Manchester City of County tennis!**  
”

I would like to give a massive thankyou to all the Surrey staff, our County coaches, everyone on the Performance Committee and Justin Sherring our County Performance Manager. Without you all none of this would be possible.







CREDIT: KANE SMITH



# PERFORMANCE MANAGER REPORT

by  
*Justin Sherring*

Surrey Tennis continues to run a thriving County Training Programme with 220 players involved across the year. Building a strong base of enthusiastic and keen competitors is at the heart of our philosophy

A dedicated team of up to 30 coaches provide stimulating and team building sessions, where competition and nurturing the 'Surrey Spirit' are at the forefront of the teachings. We have built a wonderful base for our 8's, 9's and 10's at the incredible All England Community Sports Ground – where better for our future champions to feel inspired! Reed's Tennis School and St George's College are also key CT venues, who's courts have been filled with Surrey greats in recent years – Joe Salisbury, Jack Draper and Hannah Klugman to name a few

2023 has been an outstanding year for Surrey's teams that has seen us take a very strong and potentially unassailable lead in the LTA County Cup Race. The U8 County Cup has now become a regular event after a successful pilot event in 2022 but will be kept fun focussed and not part of the LTA County Cup Race. Held at Bromley once again, it was a wonderful celebration of our youngest players' talent in the SE region.

- U9 Girls 3rd in Regionals
- U9 Boys 1st in Regionals and 1st in South Finals
- U10 Girls 1st in Regionals and 3rd in South Finals
- U10 Boys 1st in Regionals and 1st in South Finals

A slightly different format was used for the U11-U14 age groups this year, in that the highest ranked teams (based on the combined rankings of each counties top 4 players) were automatically put through to the national finals. Full reports of all these amazing achievements are available on the Surrey Tennis website.

- U11 Girls National Champions
- U11 Boys National runners-up
- U12 Girls National Champions
- U12 Boys National runners-up
- U14 Girls National Champions
- U14 Boys National Champions
- U18 Girls National Champions
- U18 Boys National runners-up

I would like to extend an enormous amount of gratitude towards all of our County Cup coaches who do an outstanding job, going above and beyond for Surrey Tennis!



A new County event was formed in 2023 called The 'Jack Draper Invitational', whereby I decided to celebrate the oversupply of our U8 players by organising an extra special event to include all of our wonderful U8's that were not selected for the first U8 County Cup of the year

A unique team event saw Middlesex, Kent and Sussex join us in a celebration of U8 team competition – the prize was the attendance of Surrey's own Jack Draper who encouraged and supported many of the matches as well as addressing all 64 players and over 100 parents. It was a very special day for so many young players!

Introduced to the junior competitive calendar in 2021 to celebrate the doubles success of Joe Salisbury, 'The Salisbury Cup' has now become an established part of the team competition 'furniture' with our 2005 born players (in their final year of junior tennis) getting the chance to represent Surrey as a junior for the final time. After a wonderful day of doubles and mixed doubles, Surrey regained the Cup with a closely fought victory over Middlesex.

Early September is when get the chance to welcome scores of 6-8yrs old into Surrey tennis by inviting the Counties' brightest and youngest talent to an afternoon of fun, making new friends and showing off their tennis skills!

We love to welcome all the next generation of Surrey tennis parents and players from all corners of Surrey by introducing ourselves as 'their' organised, enthusiastic and motivated local governing body and ensuring that everyone attending really feels part of our Surrey Tennis Family!

We also use the sessions to spot any 'ready' talented youngsters who we invite into County Training for the coming season.

Thank you to all of you who continue to play your part in the success of Surrey Tennis – here's to 2024!







I am very *proud* of the good vibrations that reverberate all around Surrey when our teams *succeed*.

# SENIORS

by  
*Mandy Spicer*

There are 7 different age groups for both men and ladies in the Senior County Cups. Matches are played in divisions throughout the summer on a home or away basis which can involve travelling far and wide with teams from The Isle of Man and Scotland also competing. There are several divisions in each age group and counties can be relegated or promoted from their relevant divisions depending on where they finish. There are 2 division 1's, A & B, the winners of which play each other in the finals again held at Sheffield this year over 3 days at the end of October.

Surrey had an incredible 7 teams who'd won through to the finals and therefore represented in half the finals being contested. The contests consist of 2 singles and 3 doubles matches involving 4 players and a 5th player can play as reserve, while in the over 70's and 75's age groups all the matches are doubles. The Friday saw our Men's Over 65's team playing Warwickshire and set the ball rolling with a 3/0 win after winning 2 crucial first set tie breaks. Our 70's ladies were equally impressive in getting the better of Cheshire to win their title also without dropping a set. Surrey 75's men had a tougher contest against their



opponents Kent winning one match on a championship tie break but likewise prevailed 3/0.

We had won 3 of the titles on offer and all the ones involving Surrey.

On Saturday our men and ladies over 55's teams were doing battle, the ladies were playing Kent who they had lost the final to last year but were determined to get revenge and did so in style with a convincing 3/0 win. Our men were embroiled in an amazing match of the highest quality against Yorkshire, the contest of the weekend from Surrey's point of view, we were 1/1 after the singles having survived a championship tie break and won a very long 1st set tie break in a doubles to bring up a deciding match...which our men won on another Championship tie break and a double celebration for husband and wife Andy and Hazel Middleton who played in both the 55's finals and dare I say we were 5/5 going into Sunday when both of Surrey's men and ladies over 50's teams would be playing Cambridgeshire. Our men won 3/0 one match on a championship tie break and our 50's ladies triumphed 3/1 fighting back having lost the first singles on a championship tie break...

I'm not sure that we've ever won so many Senior County Cup finals but to win all our 7 finals and therefore 50% of the events on offer was an amazing achievement!

A special mention must go to all the Seniors team captains, getting players to all the matches in the groups and finals take a lot of organizing.



# JUNIOR NATIONS 4

by  
*Alison Taylor*

The 'Junior Four Nations' is an annual international competition where England competes against Ireland, Scotland and Wales in singles and doubles across the 12U, 14U and 18U age groups. The selection process for the England team involves the best performing counties in each age group sending two girls and two boys. Surrey was the best performing county in the 14 and 18U age groups, we sent 8 players for the competition. Kent was the highest performing county in 11U and sent two boys and girls to make up the England team. The competition rotates around the country each year. This year Wales hosted the event at The Wrexham Tennis Centre in North Wales.

## ENGLAND PLAYERS

18U (SURREY)

Giula Lesa, Frankie Tye, Jamie Diack and James Hutchinson

14U (SURREY)

Rosie Cho, Martha Ground, Neo Armus, Lucca Strack

12U (KENT)

Kate Murray, Rosie Thomson, Darnay Hunnygen, Tony Keohane

## MATCH VS SCOTLAND

12U Team won 4-2

14U Team lost 4-2

18U Team lost 4-2

England lost 10-8

## MATCH VS WALES

12U team lost 4-2

14 u Team drew 3-3

18U Team won 4-2

Winning draw 9-9

## MATCH VS IRELAND

12U team lost 6-0

14U team lost 5-1

18U team won 5-1

England Lost 10-6



Outstanding performances from our 18U team who finished second, the 14U team finished 3rd and the 11U team finished 3rd. England finished 3rd behind Scotland and Ireland.

# WELCOME DAY

The 2023/2024 season was again kicked off with a Welcome Day on the 10th September. Almost 120 8& Under and 7& Under players were seen with around 20 players invited to join County Training this year. With the first term coming to an end, we have again used a number of indoor centers around the county to host numerous sessions supported by our dedicated team of performance coaches. Justin is always happy to receive recommendations for additional venues, performance coaches and players to get involved with Surrey performance tennis – check out the Surrey Tennis website performance page for more information and how to get in touch.



# COACH *of the* QUARTER



The Surrey Coach of the Quarter award is designed to put the spotlight on Surrey coaches who have excelled both on and off the court. Recipients of this quarterly award receive a dedicated page on the Surrey Tennis website including their contact details, social links, an interview and dedicated photoshoot. Our Performance Manager Justin Sherring describes the award as the following "In order to be awarded the prestigious 'Surrey Tennis Coach of the Quarter' coaches will be exhibiting an ABOVE and BEYOND approach to their coaching practice. Players that our Coach of the Quarter teach are very likely to progressing quickly and these coaches will be gaining a reputation of going the extra mile!"

In 2023 we awarded three Coach of the Quarter awards, to Jono Ward, Alison Taylor and Tom Burn! We sat down

with each of our winners to discuss their journey in tennis, how they discovered their passion for tennis, how their coaching style has adapted, their plans for the future and much more. To check these out, just click the button below or head to [www.surreytennis.coach-of-the-quarter](http://www.surreytennis.coach-of-the-quarter).

[CLICK HERE](#)

If you would like to nominate a coach to be Coach of the Quarter then click the button below and fill out an application form. Coaches must be working within Surrey.

[CLICK HERE](#)







# COMPETITIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*Mandy Spicer*

We are fast approaching the conclusion of my first complete calendar year of working for Surrey Tennis and it is hard now to imagine how everything came to such a standstill during all the lockdowns of the Pandemic.

As the 'biggest' Tennis county in Britain we have by far the most competitions and therefore participants. Our Wilson Winter Leagues are now in full flow with the Summer leagues to follow suit and enjoyed when daylight hours become longer again.

Likewise our 20 Winter Knockout competitions are underway with the finals being held at Magdalen Park Tennis Club who have been superb hosts on 2 previous occasions, our summer Knockout finals were this year held at Dorking Club who also did us proud and congratulations to all winners at both events. Sheen hosted our 2 tiers of Mixed Team Knockout finals on unfortunately a very wet and character building day in March but their courts allowed the matches to go ahead.

There were the LTA National League and Youth Leagues in the summer with our own National League Junior Team Trophy age groups currently being contested. Thank you to Purley Sports Club and Raynes Park Community Sports Ground for hosting the 2 Surrey finals days for the Play Your Way to Wimbledon events in which adults and juniors had won through preliminary rounds at their clubs & schools.

Surrey have been the first county to hold inter-club Padel Leagues which have proven a huge success and a big thank you to Epsom Club for their hospitality for this growing sport.

Our School events continue to thrive with the School Leagues and Rootham & Branston Shields culminating with finals days at St George's College with the boys and girls School Festival days also taking place there.

We are indebted to all the volunteer helpers who support us in a multitude of ways behind the scenes and on hand at the events as referees or court officials, they all play a huge part in enabling our events to run as smoothly as possible.

Here's to a great 2024.





# COMPETITIONS IN NUMBERS

SUMMER '23 / WINTER '22'23



Number of Teams:

**1,457**

Matches:

**3,562**

Rubbers:

**14,268**



Number of Teams:

**297**

Matches:

**405**

Rubbers:

**2,088**



Number of Teams:

**463**

Matches:

**977**

Rubbers:

**5,951**



Number of Teams:

**28**

Matches:

**26**

Rubbers:

**152**



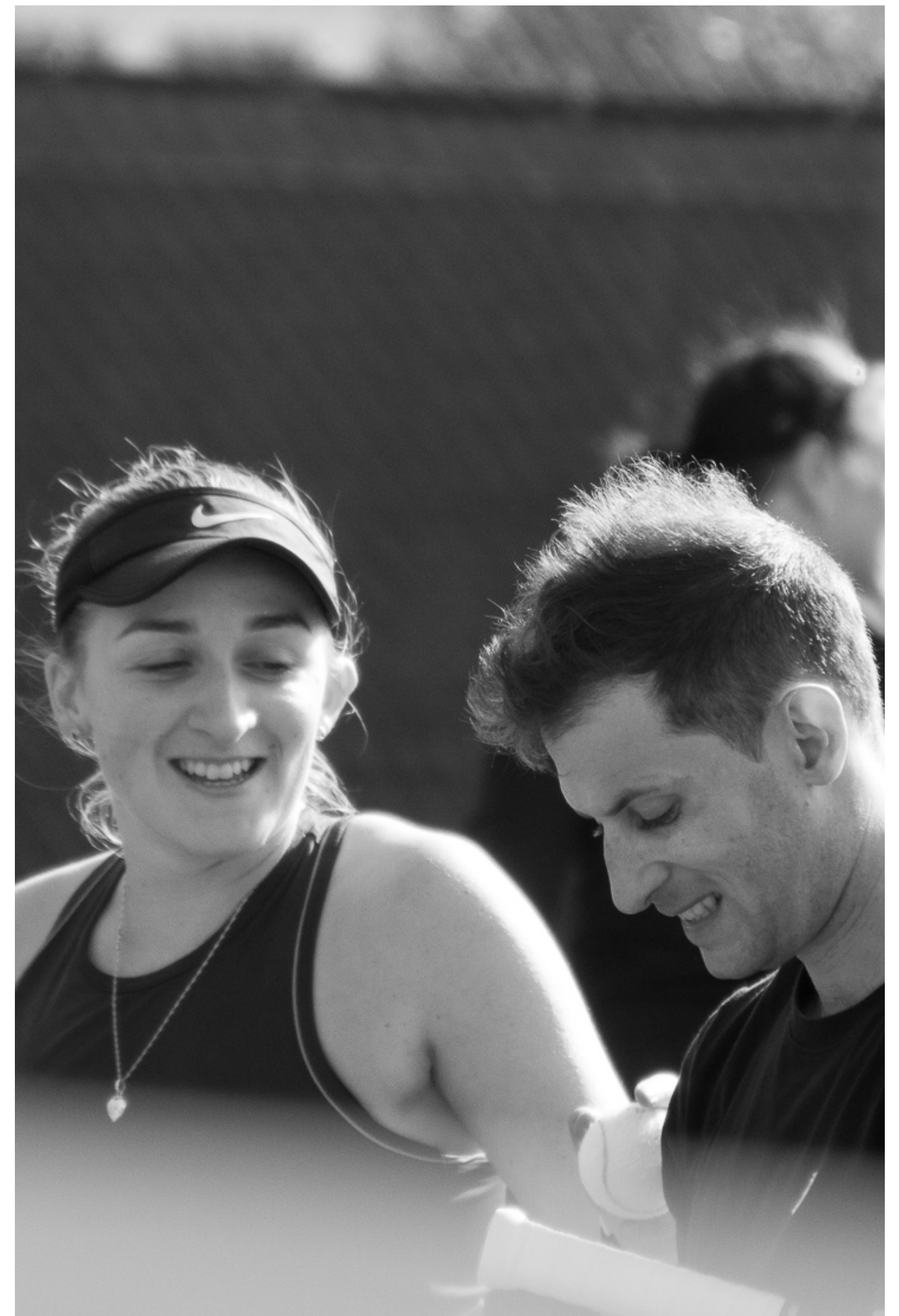
Number of Players:

**706**



Number of Players:

**271**





# SCHOOLS TENNIS

Surrey Schools Tennis has had another successful year this year with over 50 schools competing in a wide range of age groups, boys and girls.

The first event to get underway was the Surrey Schools Leagues which were played on a home or away basis starting in April. Matches were organised by the schools and the winners and runners up of the various age groups, ranging from 9U to 18U were invited to the finals on 27th & 28th June held at St George's College, Weybridge. Matches were contested on all their surfaces indoors and outdoors and luckily the weather was kind to us.

All results can be seen by clicking the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

The next event was the Surrey Schools Festivals single day events with the girls playing on 3rd May and the boys on 4th May again at St George's College Weybridge.

This was a fun event and this year we introduced a higher Tier 1 and a Tier 2 for the less experienced players which was appreciated and very much enjoyed by all those taking part. With all the courts being used we had 2 great days of tennis. The coffee truck for spectators and the Pizza van for the ever-hungry players went down a storm!

The Surrey Schools tennis events culminated with the finals of Rootham and Branston Shields on 24th June which had been contested with knockout events throughout the summer term. Schools put forwards their best players who played singles and doubles, the tennis was superb and after 2 closely fought finals James Allen's Girls School from Dulwich beat Kings College School, Wimbledon in the girls final and Ewell Castle beat Reed's School, Cobham in the boys final.

Thanks go to Carole Heritage for refereeing the Schools League finals plus both days of the Schools Festivals. She was ably assisted by the Surrey Tennis Team of Debbie Slater, Julie Duckworth and Mandy Spicer, I would also like to thank Mary Harper for her continued support for these events.

St George's College was again an excellent venue for these 3 events Looking forward to an equally successful 2024 with Schools tennis.





# THE SURREY COUNTY CHAMPS

by  
*Deborah Slater*

The 2023 Surrey County Championships were held at the All England Community Sports Ground in Raynes Park from Sunday, 20th August through Sunday 27th August 2023. With 465 singles entries and 106 pairs plus consolation draws, 673 matches were played, making it our biggest championships ever.

Over the week, it was supported by one Tournament Director, 7 Surrey Tennis staff members, 10 Court officials, 10 volunteers, and 8 AELTC team members and played across 16 rotating grass courts, 3 outdoor acrylic courts and 6 indoor courts. Rain did affect play during the week, but the tournament still finished on time. Planning for the event starts in January and finishes with a review in September, so you can see it is a big undertaking. Next year we expect to be back from Sunday 25th August through Sunday 1st September, 2024 with a fully functioning Club House, a new and improved car park and plenty of competitive play.

Across the County Champs we crowned the following 33 County Champions...





# OUR CHAMPIONS

8&U Boys' Singles:	Baxter Zee
8&U Girls' Singles:	Nolwaine Ngassam
9&U Boys' Singles:	Joshua Lotsu
9&U Girls' Singles:	Nolwaine Ngassam
10&U Boys' Singles:	Dylan Young
10&U Boys' Doubles:	Samual Palmer & Dylan Young
10&U Girls' Singles:	Charlotte Yates
10&U Girls' Doubles:	Imogen Butler & Lainee Ngassam
11&U Boys' Singles:	Cole Edwards
11&U Girls' Singles:	Darcey Osbourne
12&U Boys' Singles:	Dylan Pedra
12&U Boys' Doubles:	Yushin Ishii & Myles Kiely
12&U Girls' Singles:	Lyla Read
12&U Girls' Doubles:	Samantha Haslett & Lyla Read
14&U Boys' Singles:	Samual Mhizha
14&U Boys' Doubles:	Brennan Colletta & Toran Tserkezis
14&U Girls' Singles:	Romaine Haslett
14&U Girls' Doubles:	Lucy Bear & Emily Jagers
16&U Boys' Singles:	Robbie Taylor
16&U Boys' Doubles:	Samuel Geering & Raj Rajarajan
16&U Girls' Singles:	Lucy Bear
16&U Girls' Doubles:	Lucy Bear & Emily Jagers
18&U Boys' Singles:	Jake Evans
18&U Boys' Doubles:	Jake Evans & James Hutchinson
18&U Girls' Singles:	Martha Ground
18&U Girls' Doubles:	Martha Ground & Alexandra Nedyalkova
Open Men's Singles:	Jake Evans
Open Men's Doubles:	David Middleton & Vraj Patel
Open Mixed Doubles:	James Hutchinson & Brooke Black
Open Women's Singles:	Martha Ground
Open Women's Doubles:	Christine Fourie & Amelia Friend
O35s Men's Singles:	Floresty Cocula
O50s Men's Singles:	Richard Ground
Wheelchair Singles:	Tony Quinn
LD Singles Group 1:	John Byrne
LD Singles Group 2:	Max Mundy
Padel Men's:	Will Bannister & Gareth Nicol
Padel Women's:	Amy Cairns & Vanessa North-Panting
Padel Mixed:	Will Bannister & Amy Cairns



None of these events would have been possible without the assistance of many officials, organisers, volunteers and hosting venues. A big thank you to everyone involved, we hope you know how much you are valued.





# VOLUNTEERING AT THE CHAMPS

by  
*Kathy Birch*

We are short of helpers for the U8's and U9's Surrey County Championships, is anyone available to help?" A message that popped up on one of my tennis WhatsApp groups. A quick diary check and I'm free, so Debbie Slater gets another volunteer.

It was my first experience of such an event and as it is a long time since I was an U8 or U9 I didn't know quite what to expect.

Arriving at the AELTC Community Tennis Centre everyone was busy preparing the courts, setting up check in desks and briefing officials. Children started arriving along with grown-ups carrying their oversized bags. Some appeared confident, obviously having competed in similar events before, others were nervous and there were some that seemed blissfully unaware of what they had been entered for!

The competitors were allocated a waiting area away from their grown-ups. Everything about the competition designed to develop maturity in these young tennis players. It was obvious that some of the struggled to cope with being kept apart more than their children!

The competition started with a round robin league of about four or five children, with the winner going through to the knock out stage later in the day. My responsibility was to monitor a court, making sure the players kept the correct score and stepping in if there was an obvious wrong call. There were a few tears and glum faces when matches didn't go their way but given their young age, I was impressed with the professionalism and sportsmanship of the majority of the children.

It was obvious that some children's tennis was more developed than others, and that many had natural skills that were being coached at local clubs, but the format of the competition allowed each child to play in three or four matches and against a variety of different levels. Once the knock-out stages were underway, the level of competition stepped up significantly. The children used a variety of shots with precision and accuracy

and the level was really quite impressive. Every competition has a winner, and those that received trophies and shields were well deserved, but every child went away with something, not least a certificate and a word of congratulation and encouragement from the competition referee.

“ Given their young age, I was impressed with the professionalism and sportsmanship of the majority of the children. ”

So, first impressions of being a volunteer at a Surrey Tennis junior competition?

- It's a worthwhile use of time and a valuable way to support grass roots tennis in our county
- The process behind the competitions is well organised and professional
- The championships are designed to develop the children's knowledge of taking part in tennis competitions as well as a spring board for future county players (there were LTA scouts watching the matches)
- Surrey Tennis has a strength and depth which stands it in good stead for moving into the future.

One last thought, if you have time then give it a go next year. It's a real encouragement to see young people taking part and enjoying themselves and you get the opportunity to watch some of the other competitions that take place at the same time.





# COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*Peter Bradshaw*

Once again, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks all the sponsors of Surrey Tennis. Their continued generosity in 2023 has helped us to develop tennis throughout the County, increase participation, improve facilities, encourage inclusivity, and broaden the game. As a result of their help, we now run the largest number of competitions across adult, junior and disability of any county, involving over 20,000 players competing each year. Participation has continued to grow again this year. In addition, we provide loans to clubs to upgrade their infrastructure, with LED lights by far the most popular improvement, as well as providing a wide range of benefits to support our coaches. We have a professional office team and an army of volunteers to keep the show running smoothly alongside a dedicated Council who meet regularly to decide strategic direction. All these resources, including contributions from Sponsors, helped Surrey to perform at the highest level, and spread our wings in new directions to open up tennis.

We hear that many of our key sponsors had a terrific time at Wimbledon this year – its ability to conjure up memorable matches year after year is unsurpassed. The Men's Singles final between Djokovic and Alcaraz was a match that will be permanently etched in the memory. The ticketing process improved immeasurably and our primary focus for all our Sponsors is to create the best possible experience when they visit The Championships. We continue to thank our sponsors and look forward hopefully to continuing our partnership in future years. If there is anything at all they would like to discuss or suggest please do not hesitate to get in contact with Debbie Slater or myself.



# BECOME A *surrey* PARTNER

There are a number of ways to get involved with Surrey Tennis. Our partnerships not only enable us and our members to increase participation, but also to improve facilities, raise standards of play and support coach development throughout the County. With 60,000+ players, 190+ venues and 400+ coaches, we are one of the largest playing counties in Great Britain. With Surrey players such as Joe Salisbury, Jack Draper, Jodie Burrage and Lily Miyazaki leading the way at the making

the very top of the sport, now is the perfect time to get involved with a county that is bringing through some of the world's best talent. Here are some examples of ways you can get involved with Surrey Tennis.

- + COMPETITIONS
- + PADEL
- + PERFORMANCE
- + COACHING
- + DISABILITY
- + AWARDS
- + DIGITAL

If you would like to discuss partnership opportunities, simply click the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)





# COACHES COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*Matt Trevail*

The Surrey Coaches Committee met in February, June and November to discuss its agenda of representing and supporting Coaches at all levels to help tennis thrive in Surrey through the Surrey Coaches Group. This year the Committee was very pleased to welcome some further new faces who have shown a passion to excel in the Coaching world, with a view to joining the Committee; Dave Earl (LTA Level 5 & Director at Boom Tennis, Redhill), Emma Wells (Tennis Entrepreneur & UK PTR Director) and Liam Rabbitte (Inclusive Manager at Sutton Tennis & Squash Club) all bring a wealth of experience and skills to hopefully benefit other coaches in the county going forwards.

2023 saw various coaches being supported through the Surrey Coaches Group Coaching Bursary scheme, with one Level 2, two Level 3 and two Level 4's making applications. We wish them all the best in completing their qualifications and look forward to seeing them at Surrey Tennis events in 2024.

Coaches across the county joined forces to support a new 8U Team Tennis "Central venue" pilot event initiated by the Coaches Group / Competitions Committee to provide more enjoyable experience for younger players often competing for the first time. With a view to helping competition better integrate with coaching programmes at all venues, 135 players took part across 6 events in Surrey, with lots of very positive feedback and further improvements planned for 2024. Many thanks to all the coach organisers who got involved.

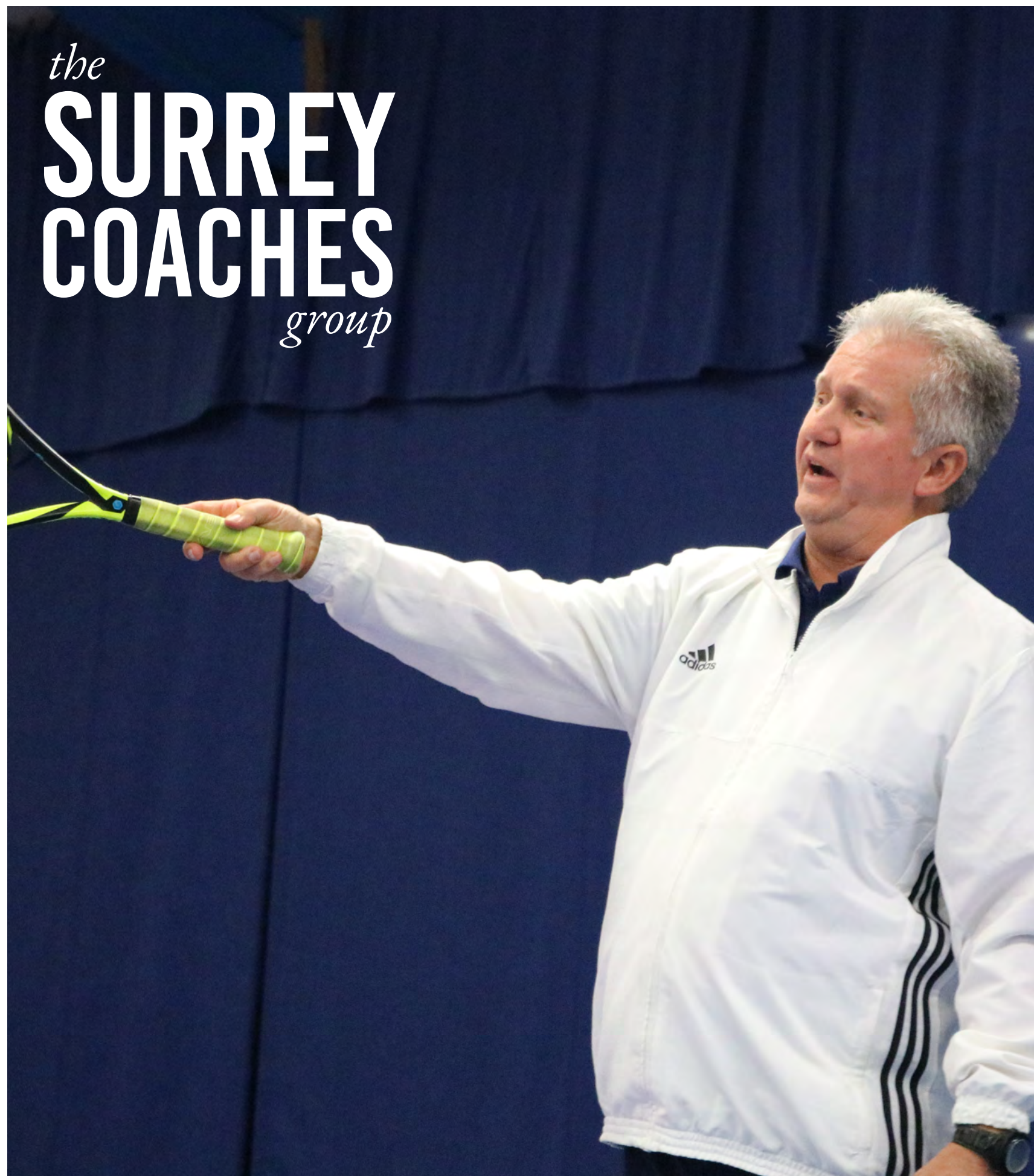
Surrey Coaches Group continued to support LTA Coach education provider Virtus run a mixture of

different themed CPD events across the county, as well as various other providers running useful courses in Surrey, including Bright Ideas for Tennis Disability training and PTR courses. The Coaches Group ran one on-court CPD session in 2023 titled "Technical Ranges of Acceptability" (led by Surrey Performance Manager, Justin Sherring), with 24 Coaches in attendance. Matt, Liam and Tim also teamed up with Kate and the Venues Committee to share experiences at the "Community Engagement & Inclusion Forum", with some fascinating stories shared.

One further CPD webinar event is planned for 2023; "Better Business for Surrey Coaches", with Dave and Matt leading the open discussion on ideas to improve your Coaching Business. Surrey Coaches Group members continue to benefit from the bi-annual discounted First Aid course, as well as a full range of Surrey Tennis branded kit through the kitlocker website. Many thanks to Tim Sagar in the Surrey Office for all the Tennis Development work and continuing to provide very useful regular email updates for Surrey Coaches.







The Coaches Group is designed to support local coaches in a variety of ways. As part of being a member, coaches get numerous benefits including: regular email updates, access to local and subsidised CPD, access to the coach bursary scheme, and access to our kit and equipment portal.

We work closely with Virtus, who are the LTAs Coach Education Provider covering Surrey. This is to ensure that the CPD and coach qualification provision across the County is sufficient. And Coaches Group members will often hear about upcoming CPD at the earliest opportunity, giving them the chance to get booked on and avoid missing out.

We ran our own face to face CPD in September. Justin Sherring (Surrey Tennis Performance Manager) delivered a session around Technical Ranges of Acceptability. Justin brought in a top national junior player he is working with and went through various shots from a technical perspective. One of the key themes coming through in the session was that there are a variety of techniques within a certain range that can achieve a similar outcome. This fuelled some great discussion amongst the coaches when looking at various shots. And with any CPD run by the Surrey Coaches Group, we always want to create an environment that encourages coaches to come together and share ideas and best practice.

In 2023, we also ran two First Aid courses for our coaches to ensure they are keeping all parts of their accreditation up to date. The first one being in March and the second being in November. We look forward to running more courses for coaches in 2024.

The bursary scheme has continued to attract interest from members this year. Where possible we want to support coaches who are looking to develop their coaching skillsets. We have had 5 successful applications and look forward to welcoming further applications in the future.

We are excited to see what 2024 brings. There are plans to hopefully run another Surrey Coaches Conference, which proved popular in 2022. If you are a coach working at a Surrey registered venue that has not yet joined, you can found out more information about the Coaches Group and how to join by clicking the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)









# VENUES & COMMS COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*Kate Maurici*

We started 2023 with a zoom coffee morning for Surrey tennis venues to help us identify the priority areas in which our committee should focus on this year. It was clear from this online meeting that key areas where venues wanted more discussion and information were on issues of inclusion in its broadest sense and in particular how to engage more successfully with schools. We followed up the coffee morning with an online survey and subjects such as floodlighting and environmental sustainability were also highlighted. Internally we also updated our terms of reference for the committee and reviewed how we communicated with venues new to Surrey Tennis.

Committee Members are unanimously passionate about inclusion and this year we have now established inclusion leads on all Council committees, so that inclusion is seminal

to all discussions on all Council business. In November we held our first inclusion leads discussion group, where V&C Committee member Tunde Adefowora led an interesting discussion on the what, why and how of inclusion in tennis.

Surrey Tennis communications are managed brilliantly and ingeniously by Lewis and once again we have had a Year of interesting and engaging posts on social media, clearly signposted information on the website, branding and IT support at forums, Awards and the County Champs and Lewis has now begun work on a regular Surrey Tennis Quarterly Newsletter. We are looking forward to discussing Surrey Tennis internal and external communications even more in 2024 to ensure that we can offer support and assistance to facilitate excellence in communication processes between the Surrey Office, Council and our Venues, Parents and Players.



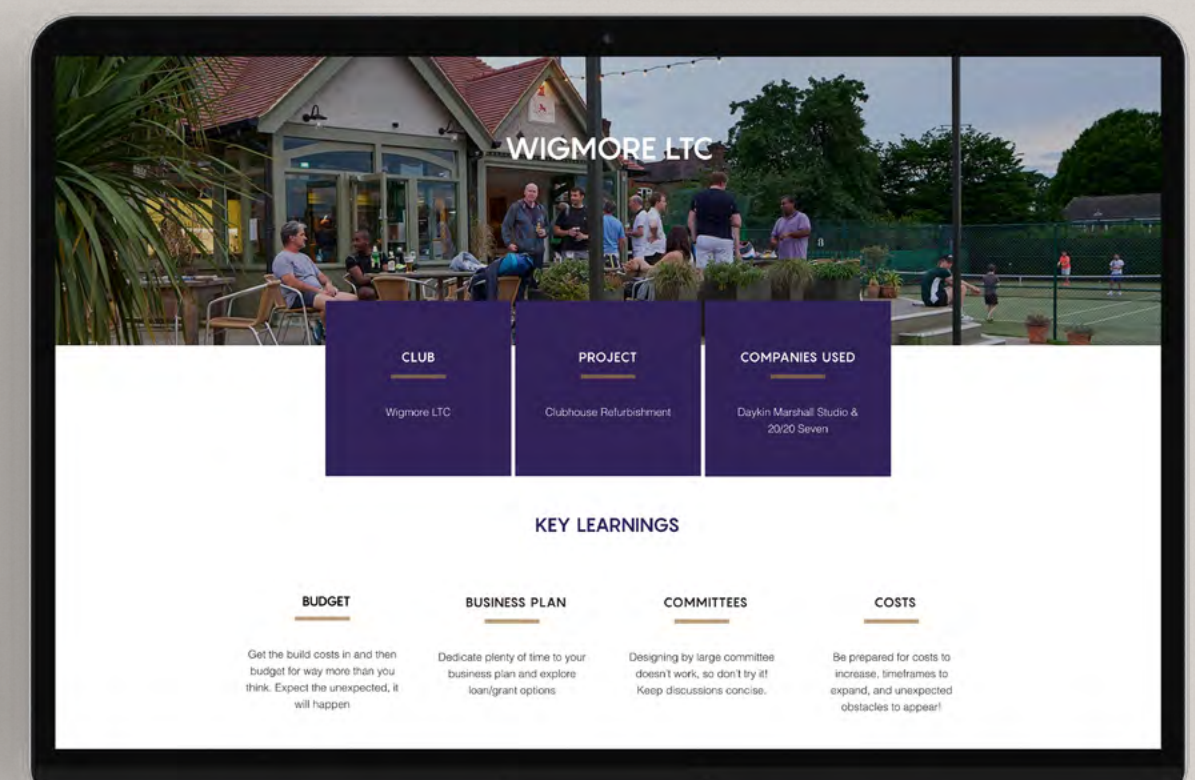
# CASE STUDIES

For more information on this case study, just click the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Our second case study we released earlier this year was the full clubhouse refurbishment of Wigmore LTC. The four key learnings the club identified when submitting the case study were; Budget (Get the build costs in and then budget for way more than you think. Expect the unexpected, it will happen), Business Plan (Dedicate plenty of time to your business plan and explore loan/grant options), Committees (Designing by large committee doesn't work, so don't try it! Keep discussions concise) and costs (Be prepared for costs to increase, timeframes to expand, and unexpected obstacles to appear!). To learn more about the case study, click below.

[CLICK HERE](#)





# FORUMS

by  
*Kate Maurici*

Our forums are informal and sociable occasions where representatives from committees, coaching teams and volunteers from venues can come together and discuss common issues, with the guidance and inspiration of a few speakers.

Our Padel Forum in September which was launched in 2022 is now a firm fixture on our forum's Calendar. Mark Ayers, Committee member and Padel guru shared his passion and knowledge for the game with attendees at the forum which took place at Epsom Lawn Tennis Club. After playing some points I enjoyed flipping some burgers and chatting to those who attended.

In quick succession, we then had our second forum on



Community Engagement and Inclusion at Byfleet Tennis Club. This forum focussed on schools sessions, both at tennis venues and at schools. We had top tips from Liam Rabitte and Matt Trevail on how to develop school relationships, how to run and enter schools competitions and how working with schools can benefit your venue. I also shared my love for my seniors dementia friendly tennis classes and hopefully gave a glimpse into how to make sessions more inclusive for all.

Our final forum took place at The Wimbledon Club in mid November and was a look at how our venues might look in 20 Years time...

At 2 of our forums we are supported by an LTA representative (Jess Downs and Sarah Ferrier) who gave valuable updates to those attending on LTA initiatives, support and funding. If your Club would like to host a forum in next year's series please get into contact with Tim Sagar at the Surrey Office.







# CHARITY GOLF DAY

“ Just under £8,000 was raised and split 50:50 between the West Surrey Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. ”

This year saw the third running of our Charity Golf Day incorporating a Fun Tennis Tournament. Hosted at West Surrey Golf and Tennis Clubs, 20 teams of 4 players took to the golf course for a 09:30 shot gun start. Twenty-four tennis players took to the court to play an American Tournament. On completion of the competitions, everyone was invited to a BBQ which was followed by an auction. The winning golf team came from Surbiton Racket and Fitness Club.

Just under £8,000 was raised and split 50:50 between the West Surrey Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association and the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

The 2024 Charity Golf and Fun Tennis Day will be on Thursday, 13th June 2024, so put the date in your diary now.



# PADEL REPORT

by  
*Mark Ayres*

Padel in Surrey in 2023 continues to flourish with the demand for court time and club membership exceeding availability. The result is that more padel courts are in planning departments across the county awaiting a decision. These proposed courts are a mixture of court additions at LTA venues with existing padel courts, LTA registered tennis venues that wish to implement padel and at least one stand-alone new multi-court padel facility.

Anecdotal feedback from different venues suggest that planning departments are now becoming familiar with the sport of padel more and are increasingly requesting noise surveys to be undertaken as part of the application. Padel membership is buoyant at those venues offering a subscription membership with many now full with waiting lists in operation and those that offer pay and play models reporting high levels of court occupancy.

The standard of play is clearly increasing at venues across the county as players get more game time under their belts, with many transitioning from tennis and others from a squash background. The sport in the UK is still suffering from a lack of experienced padel coaches, who will naturally migrate to the larger venues where they can earn a living. This situation will surely improve as the number of venues increase and more coaches undertake the LTA padel coaching pathway.

One area of concern that I do have for the sport both at county and national level is the slow engagement with juniors. The still relatively low number of padel courts in the county and the huge demand witnessed to date has resulted in a very adult-centric domination of court time. Many venues do offer some form of "introduction to padel" courses and coaching activity specifically for juniors, but the lack of court availability and qualified padel coaches are factors hindering the uptake of the sport by juniors. This is one area that needs thought and development within our county over the coming year.

As part of the informative series of annual forums, Surrey Tennis staged its second padel forum at Epsom Lawn Tennis Club in September. The forum started with coffees and the presentation of a case study of how a club introduced its first padel court followed swiftly by two more. This was followed by a general discussion including advice on the best way to introduce padel to existing tennis venues covering court types and location, membership models and equipment. The enthusiastic bunch of attendees from Surrey venues (those without padel courts) then took to the padel courts to experience the game for the first time. The morning session was a fantastic demonstration of the ease to which the game can be picked up (especially by those with previous racquet sport experience). Within minutes players were experiencing some great rallies with balls taken off the glass and boosted returns. All to the sounds of laughter and much merriment – always a great advert for the sport. The forum concluded with a barbecue and refreshments.



# PADEL FESTIVAL & FINALS DAY



2023 saw the introduction of the UK's first LTA County-wide league, the Surrey Padel League that culminated on Sunday 21st May with a Festival and Finals Day, hosted at Epsom Lawn Tennis Club. Thirty-three teams from eight of the county's padel venues began the leagues back in January across seven different events. There were two-tiered events for men, women and mixed doubles as well as a Centurion Doubles. In the latter the combined pairing had to have a combined age of 100 years or more.

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

clubs' best players. Fourteen teams competed in the seven matches on finals day.

LTA President Sandi Proctor and Surrey Tennis Chair, Peter Bradshaw were present to witness some excellent competitive padel from the competing Surrey Clubs and were on hand to present the silver 'bandejas' at the end of a long day.

The quality of the padel on show coupled with the number of spectators and supporters watching is yet another indication of how far the sport has come in a relatively short space of time within the county. A county now with a total of 13 different padel venues. The day had a real padel-party atmosphere, with Sandy Farquharson from The Padel School providing padel masterclasses and an exhibition match starring GB players. The latest in racquet technology was available for players to try out on court and a BBQ, home-made cakes and bar kept competitors and spectators fuelled throughout the day.

The winning teams were as follows :

Men's Diablo Doubles; David Lloyd Raynes Park

Women's Diablo Doubles; Surbiton Rackets & Fitness Club

Mixed Diablo Doubles; Surbiton Rackets & Fitness Club

Men's Cobra Doubles; Epsom Lawn Tennis Club

Women's Cobra Doubles; Esher Lawn Tennis Club

Mixed Cobra Doubles; Epsom Lawn Tennis Club

Centurion Doubles; Epsom Lawn Tennis Club

Following a meeting with participating venues after the finals day it was decided to run two leagues per annum, a spring league from January through to May and then an autumn league which is currently underway with a pre-Christmas conclusion.





# DISABILITY REPORT

by  
*Tim Sagar*

We continue to support disability tennis activity via the LTA Open Court Surrey Programme. We have built some new partnerships with external organisations and tennis venues, who are now starting to deliver various activity. There are now over 25 venues that are part of the Open Court Programme and have received funding towards activity they are delivering either at their venue or within the local community. For example, Wimbledon Guild and Sutton Befrienders have linked up with local tennis venues and coaches to establish walking tennis sessions. We provided equipment bags to assist with making these sessions a success. These have been well attended throughout the year and players have commented on the positive impact it has had on their physical and mental health. One participant of the Sutton Befrienders Walking Tennis session commented that it is a 'supportive group where new friendships have been established'. We look forward to seeing how this develops in 2024.

In partnership with Middlesex Tennis, we ran Wheelchair, Visually Impaired and Learning Disability events as part of the County Championships in August. This was open to players across the South East region. We hope to see these events grow in 2024, and are keen to work with coaches and venues to ensure more players are encouraged to take part.

If there are any new sessions that venues, coaches, volunteers are thinking of starting up, please do get in contact to see how we might be able to support. This could include financial support and/or an equipment bag.





# VOLUNTEERING FOR SURREY

Surrey Tennis could not function without our army of volunteers quietly beaverling away in the background to ensure events run smoothly. There are only so many hours in the day and if you have read the "Note from the Office" you will know the paid team is juggling lots of things to keep tennis in Surrey running.

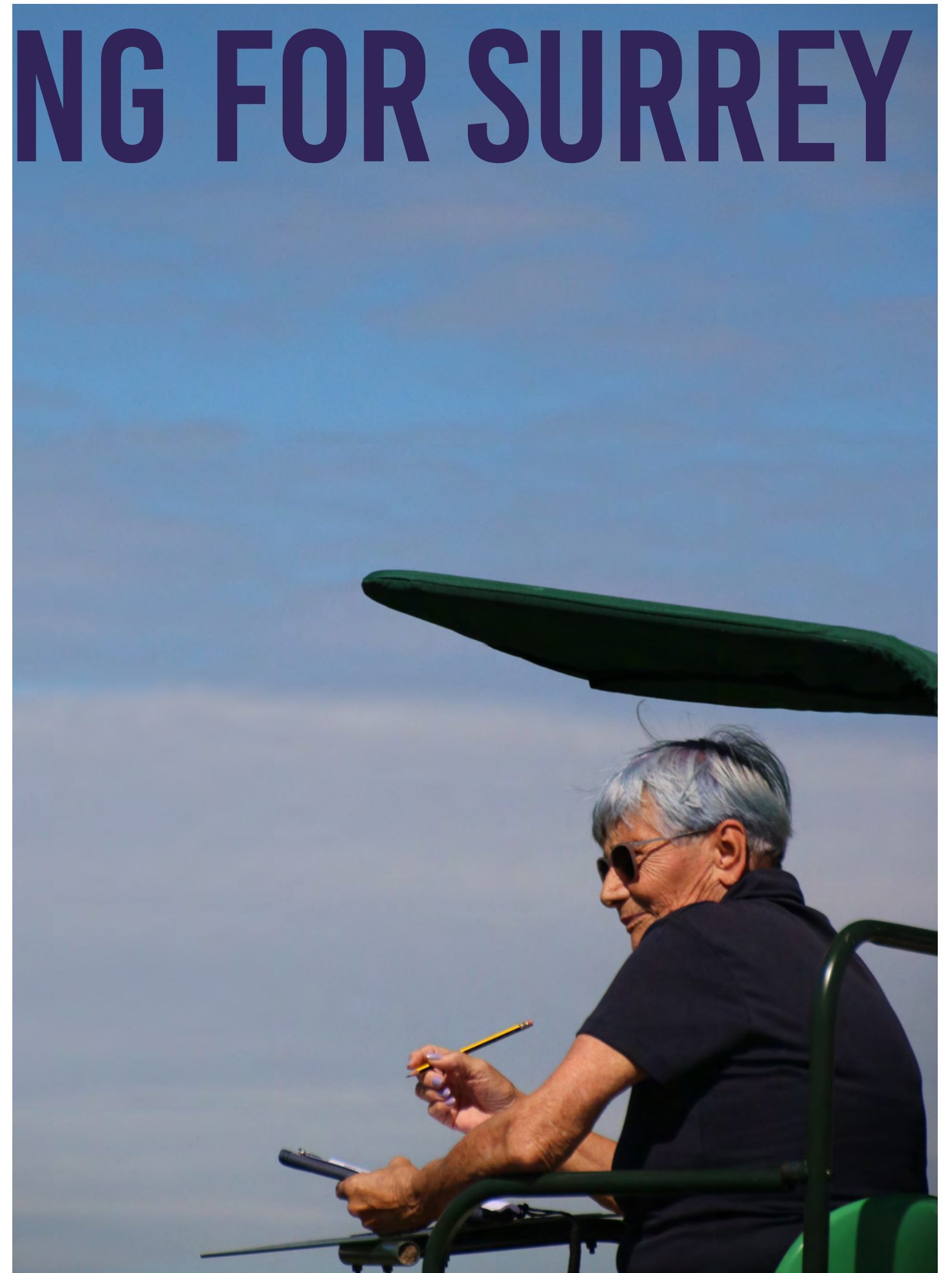
One of the main areas where we use volunteers is the overseeing of competitions. With over 1,500 matches played each summer and again in the winter in the Wilson Surrey Leagues alone, the number of queries that arise is vast. While Mandy, our office Competitions Administrator oversees the top few divisions across all our competitions, we rely on our 9 League Co-ordinators to oversee the 700+ teams involved in the Wilson Surrey Leagues. We have another two co-ordinators looking after our National League Junior Team Trophy and 10 co-ordinators sorting through the queries from the Surrey Knockouts and 2 more looking after the Mixed Team Knockout. Some of our Co-ordinators have been helping for a number of years but with the number of entries growing each year, we are always on the lookout for more people to help. Some of our best helpers are people who have, or even still, play in one or more of our events. For example, captains from Wilson Surrey League teams have experience of the rules, arranging matches, and entering the results – which is a great grounding for volunteering. Others have experience in their home clubs which provides a basis for helping with Surrey competitions.

Another area where volunteers are essential is our County Championships. Held at the end of August each year, we value our helpers, especially the junior volunteers that come along to help with our 8 and 9 year olds. These young players are less in awe of someone closer in age helping them with their matches by ensuring they go to the correct court, follow the rules and keep an eye of the score, before escorting the players back to the official

to enter their scores. With several adults as back up we often have 6-8 junior helpers for the 2 days of the County Championships. With a few more helpers, those there would get more breaks in which to go and watch some of the other matches.

You may also know about our Surrey Tennis Schools Festival, where children from year 5 through year 13 can come and compete in a doubles competition against other schools. Split into 2 tiers, we aim for a fun-filled day of tennis for both the experienced competitor and the novice. Traditionally we rely on accompanying teachers to help run the event, but with many teachers bringing more than 1 team from their school, our teacher helpers often aren't able to cheer on all their teams, so if we had some helpers on the day to help run the different age group round robins, the teachers would be free to enjoy the day themselves.

Did you know, all the Councillors that run Surrey Tennis are unpaid volunteers? The Councillors are responsible for liaising with the LTA to ensure the aims of the LTA and of the County align. They are the body which plans the strategy to support clubs and coaches across the county, ensuring players have multiple options to play tennis and extend skills, and oversees the finances to ensure Surrey Tennis is a thriving entity. Check out our Councillor profiles on the Surrey Tennis website, maybe you can join the hard-working band of 14 Councillors and 12 volunteer committee members to support tennis in Surrey. A range of skills are called upon in the committees where knowledge of venues to host events such as our Awards Ceremony, coach get togethers, Senior County Cup practice is just one way you could get involved. Just because you don't have coaching or officiating skills does not prevent you from making a great contribution to tennis in Surrey.







# SAFEGUARDING REPORT

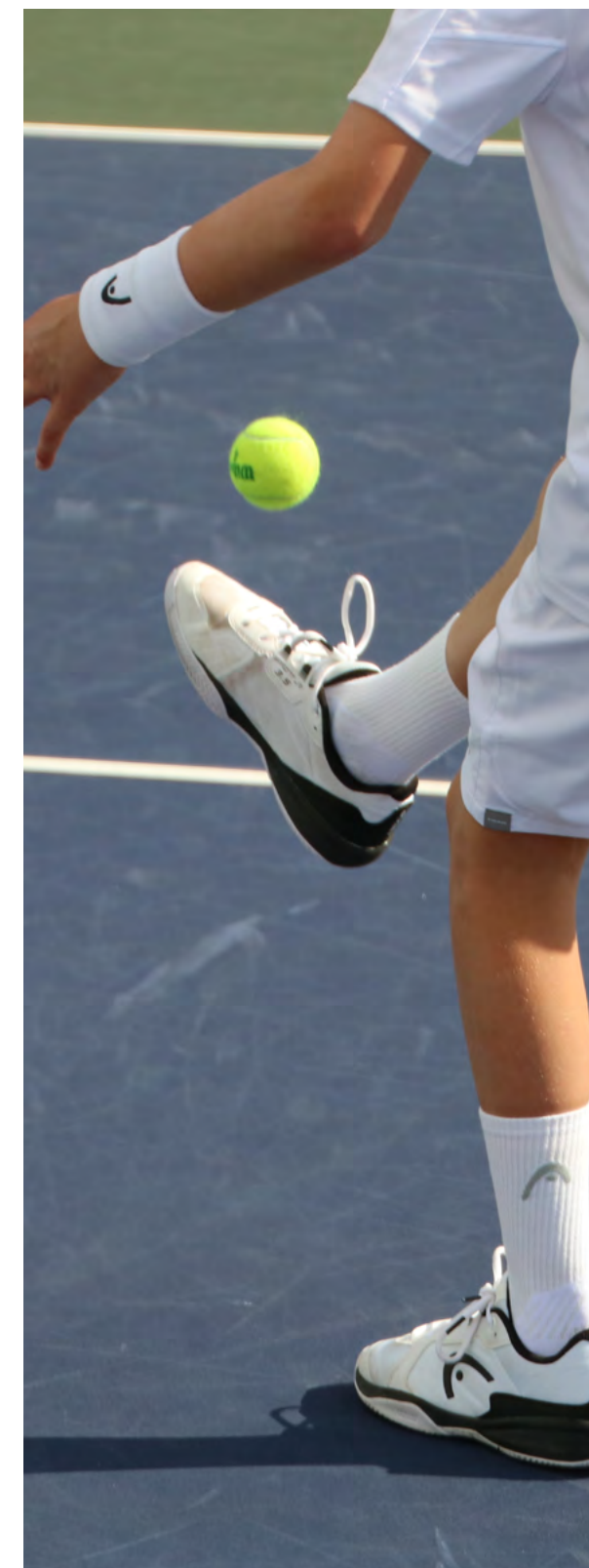
by  
*Tim Sagar*

Safeguarding continues to be a priority for the County and factored into how we operate. In June, Surrey Tennis reviewed its safeguarding policies, and the updated documents can be found via our dedicated webpage on the Surrey Tennis website - [www.surreytennis/safeguarding](http://www.surreytennis/safeguarding). The LTA safeguarding team continue to conduct visits to Surrey venues to support them in ensuring they are meeting the LTA safeguarding standards. Further details about them can be found here - [www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/venue-standards/](http://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/venue-standards/)

This year also saw the introduction of LTA safeguarding newsletters. These are sent quarterly to all venue welfare officers and provide useful updates and information that can support in the efforts to ensure your venue is providing a safe environment and enjoyable safeguarding experience. In October, the LTA ran various workshops as part of National Safeguarding in Tennis Awareness Week. This was open to Counties, coaches, officials, and welfare officers. Various speakers ran sessions on topics to provide practical tips and examples to support people in their role. This included:

- Venue Support Visits
- Safeguarding Case Study Workshop
- Young People's Welfare Ambassador Project
- Risk Assessment Processes
- Ideas for raising and maintaining safeguarding awareness in your venue

These workshops were all recorded and can be accessed via the safeguarding webpage on the LTA website - [www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-week/](http://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-week/). A reminder, if your concern is about a tennis venue activity, please report through your venue welfare officer. You can also contact the LTA safeguarding team through the 'register a concern form'.





# LTA COUNCILLOR'S R E P O R T

by  
*Alison Taylor*

This is my fourth year as the LTA Councillor for Surrey. The role of the LTA councillor is to be a link between Tennis Surrey and the executive staff of the LTA. I attend four LTA meetings and four South East regional meetings annually. Some highlights for 2023 ...

## Venues

We've refreshed our 'What does good look like' club models and have started a 'Club of the month' feature to enable clubs to tell their story and inspire others to follow suit. We've published 8 of these already, with a further 6 in the pipeline. They can be accessed through the Venue Support Toolkit on the County Communications hub.

## Sustainability

LTA's ambition is to have a lasting future for tennis through positive action on climate change and leadership in sustainability. The target for climate action is net zero carbon from LTA Operations and major events in 2030 and support the wider tennis community in reducing carbon emissions. Utilise resources efficiently to reduce waste and energy usage from LTA business operations and major events and support the tennis community to do the same. To protect the natural environment the LTA's target is for tennis in Britain to have a net positive impact on biodiversity. Presently the LTA are working on support and guidance to tennis venues, very helpful ideas and actions can be found in the venue support toolkit.

## Parks Investment

As part of the £30m investment from the UK Government and the LTA Tennis foundation into transforming park courts with the hopes of 500,000 – 1 million more tennis players in the next few years. There will be 500+ more courts that will be bookable through the LTA website, halfway through most of the refurbishments. All refurbished parks will run free park tennis sessions on Saturday or Sunday at 10am by trained volunteers.

## Competition

The Play Your Way to Wimbledon (powered by Vodafone) competition, delivered in conjunction with the AELTC achieved 15,000 players taking part (up from 9,000 in 2022) and 240 making their way to the AELTC for the Finals in August. This year saw the introduction of new and inclusive pathways such as VI, LD, Wheelchair and Adult events, all of which concluded alongside the Junior pathways in the Finals week at AELTC. A refreshed and improved Junior County Cup which addressed issues of level based play, financing concerns for counties and reducing travel requirements. 2023 is the second year of the new LTA Performance Competitions Calendar, providing significantly enhanced playing opportunities for British players at each age and stage of the performance player pathway.

## Inclusion and Diversity

One of the Actions contained in the Inclusion Strategy is to create an "Inclusion Charter" to help drive a culture of inclusion throughout our sport. The "Inclusion Charter" is simply an umbrella term for the requirements and all necessary supporting materials – to give counties and venues the confidence to be able to make a clear public commitment to inclusion. Alongside, we will provide a practical picture of what excellent looks like: ideas/ best practice and support for how counties and venues can improve their understanding of inclusion, how to run themselves in an inclusive way and how to engage better with under-represented local communities. Building refurbished parks into an inclusively focused local area plan.

## Participation

Participation trends continue to be extremely positive, with adult annual participation now at just shy of 5.6 million, and further growth in monthly play to almost 2.6m, double

the number in 2019 at the start of our 5-year strategy. On a 12-month rolling basis participation has increased for all demographics and all nations and regions.

## Padel

There are now over 330 padel courts in Britain. The Padel Instructor courses are now being consistently delivered by our CDC network. This year a total of 222 candidates have completed a readiness test so they can enrol for the course. In addition, a total of 660 coaches have now completed the CPD Intro to Padel Coaching. Please read the monthly padel newsletter for updates.

## National Awards

The LTA Awards this year were the most high profile to date. There were five events for the regional winners and the national ceremony on 4th July hosted 200 guests and several high-profile presenters. The LTA Tennis Awards celebrate the achievements made by outstanding individuals and venues in tennis throughout the past year. They present us all with a great opportunity to say "thank you" to the amazing 25,000 volunteers, 4,672 coaches and 975 officials. They also highlight the incredible achievements of some 22,000 schools, 2,768 clubs and over 9,276 LTA approved tournaments. Surrey had 3 National Winners last year, Oliver Bonding as Boys Player of the year, Joe Salisbury as Doubles Player of the Year and Michelle Oldham as Senior Women's Player of the Year.

## Safeguarding

Having received feedback around last year's safeguarding conference In October this year we made it easier than ever before to attend a session of interest. Workshop topics were informed by your valued feedback in areas you would like more information on and have been live so that questions could be asked. They are also recorded and made available online to watch later for reference and for those who cannot attend. All sessions were free and were offered to, but not limited to: Coaches, Welfare Officers, County Safeguarding Officers, Officials, and county and venue committee members. Please see the schedule and watch out for the recordings.

## LTA Youth

Prime Video LTA Youth Girls Junior Programme designed to



inspire thousands of girls to pick up a racket and try tennis for the first time. Coaches were trained and are supported by the LTA in this initiative:

**LTA Youth Schools** – access to free resources, teacher training designed for schools to support the curriculum. Approx 15,000 teachers trained in primary and secondary schools.

**LTA Youth Competition** – Team Challenge and League to increase the number of children playing tennis competitions.

**Youth Go** – A community based programme to provide kids with an introduction to tennis, no need for a tennis court, these sessions have been created so you can run them wherever and whenever.

## LTA Major Success

Joe Salisbury and partner Rajeev Ram winning 3 consecutive US Open Men's doubles titles. Neil Skupski and partner Wesley Koolhof winning Australian and Wimbledon Men's Doubles. Alfie Hewett winning The Australian Open and US Open in Men's wheelchair singles and The Australian, The French Open and Wimbledon with partner Gordon Reid in the Mens wheelchair doubles Henry Searle winning the Wimbledon Junior Boys singles title. Surrey's Hannah Klugman and Isabelle Lacy were finalists in The Junior Girls Doubles at Wimbledon.

## Tennis Campaigns

Our 2023 LTA Youth campaign launched on 9th June. The campaign was developed to inspire and engage children aged 4-11 to play tennis, through the creation of six fun tennis ball characters, called the LTA Tennisables. Each character focused on a different skill to help kids learn to 'smash it' at tennis, including speed, competitiveness, resilience, technique, and brainpower.



# AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

by  
*David Lovejoy*

On April the 16th 2023 Surrey Tennis held a celebration of tennis awards afternoon at the Roehampton Club. We had special guests in attendance with the LTA President Sandi Proctor and the outgoing LTA President David Rawlinson joining us. The event is held to acknowledge the accomplishments of Surrey players, clubs, volunteers, officials and all other aspects that make tennis run effectively and efficiently in Surrey allowing for all players at all levels to play the game. We also recognised all the Surrey LTA Tennis award winners, 2 of which represented Surrey in the National awards event as Regional winners. The LTA Tennis awards are organised by the LTA and have been in place since 2015. The purpose is for everyone in British Tennis to be recognised and voted for by anyone who wants to make a nomination. The nomination process is currently under way and closes at the end of November. Details how to vote can be found on the LTA website.

## LTA Tennis Awards - Surrey regional Award winners

Park Venue of the Year Award – **Tennis in Elmbridge**  
University of the Year – **King's College London**

In July the LTA held the National Awards at the AELTC, regional winners are invited to the club for the event and get the opportunity to watch some tennis. Our 2 regional winners were not chosen as National winners, however Surrey did have 3 LTA National winners in categories that were selected by an LTA panel.

**Oliver Bonding** – “boy’s LTA player of the year” for 2022. Oli won 4 ITF under 18 events at the age of 15 and represented GB in team events. Oli’s good form continued in 2023 where he played for GB in the Junior Davis Cup finals.

**Joe Salisbury** – won the “Doubles player of the year” for

2022. Joe won a number of titles in 2022 with partner Rajeev Ram, including the US Open men’s doubles title, they defended the title again in 2023 making it 3 in a row for the pair.

**Michelle Oldham** – was voted the “Seniors player of the year” for 2022. Michelle reached number 1 in the World in the seniors over 50s age category. Winning the ITF seniors World Championships over 50 singles and mixed doubles with fellow GB player Seb Jackson partner in May.

The awards committee and the office team have tried to be more proactive in telling all our clubs/venues, players, parents, coaches about the various LTA awards that they can nominate for. Hopefully we can engage with more of the Surrey Tennis community to get involved with the LTA awards process. The nominations for the 2023 awards are well under way, with closing date for nominations being at the end of November. The awards committee will be meeting early in 2024 to decide the 2023 Surrey winners.

I would like to thank all the hard work of the awards committee during 2023.



# OUR 2023 AWARD WINNERS



Club of the Year  
Development Coach of the Year  
Performance Coach of the Year  
Connecting Communities Award  
Park Venue of the Year Award  
Tennis for All Award  
Tennis for All Award  
School of the Year Award  
University of the Year Award  
Official of the Year Award  
Official of the Year Award  
Lifetime Achievement Award  
Volunteer of the Year Award  
National League Premier Team  
National League County Team  
County Cup Team of the Year  
Girls Progress Award  
Jean Thirwall Girls Endeavour Award  
Boys Progress Award  
Roger Webb Boys Endeavour Award  
President’s Award  
Bernard Crouch Trophy 2022

Sutton Tennis and Squash Club  
Brian Love  
Nicholas Jones  
All Star Youth Tennis Scholarship Trust  
Tennis in Elmbridge  
Liam Rabbitte  
Emma Wells Tennis  
Reay Primary School  
Kings College London  
Nina Amato  
Robert Jones  
Michael Vaughan  
Sean Molony  
Surbiton Boys 12  
Westside 12U Boys  
Ladies Winter County Cup Team  
Lotti Lord  
Yasmin Griffin  
Liam Channon  
Kai-Luca Ampaw  
Arum Akom  
Mike Dawe



# TREASURERS REPORT REPORT

by  
*Lynne Hunt*

This year has seen a significant rise in our income, compared with last year, mainly due to the higher sponsorship income received, for which we are extremely grateful to all of our partners. Whilst overall other income has slightly increased, this has been offset by increased costs, due to the higher number of participants in competitions and the associated costs of running events, plus the effects of inflation. One point to note is the basis of the funds received from the LTA, which as noted last year, has now changed. Whilst we have received just over £100k, this is for a twelve month calendar period, leaving a gap of 3 months effectively unfunded. This is a one off hit, experienced by all counties, and has meant that the accounts show a lower level of funding for the period under review.

In addition, as already noted elsewhere, the Patrons closed during the year, and as our accounts were consolidated with those of the Patrons, we are showing the £100k

donation they made during their closing process to the Junior Trust Fund.

Overall, we remain in a healthy position, with a strong balance sheet, with the accounts showing a small profit of just over £5k.

During the year we advanced one further loan to a club to upgrade their floodlights and have a further two loans being finalised. Due to the change in the LTA loan scheme, we have increased the maximum loan that we will consider to £25k, so that there is no gap between our maximum funding and the minimum of the LTA.

The other main area of note, and a focus of attention during the past twelve months, is our impending incorporation, which will lead to a change in our year end, but more of that in the later session.



# INCORPORATION

by  
*Lynne Hunt*

As set out in my report last year, one of our objectives for this year was incorporation, as recommended by the LTA. This has been a long journey, but we are now in the position to incorporate as a Company Limited by Guarantee, also becoming a charity, subject to obtaining the necessary authorisation from the Charity Commission.

As a company and a charity, we are governed by both the Companies Act and the Charity Commission, which brings about a much higher level of statutory accountability for the directors and members. As a result, we believe it is the correct structure for the Council members to be the directors and trustees, with the associated legal accountability, and for the other members, such as clubs, parks, schools etc. to be a newly classified Associate or Affiliate members. We, as a Council, are extremely keen to ensure that under the new structure the Associates and Affiliates remain part of the Surrey Tennis family and therefore have taken legal advice to create a suitable framework for this to continue. As a result, we have the statutory Articles of Association, but have also created various Regulations, thereby maintaining the rights of Associates and Affiliates to the greatest extent possible, having regard to the legal requirements.

Whilst not directly linked to incorporation, we have taken this change in structure as the opportunity to review our relationship with our members, as currently known. As a result, and due to the change in the way counties are funded, where there is now a separation from the funding members give to the LTA and the funding we receive from the LTA, there is currently no actual contractual relationship between the county and members. Therefore, we are proposing to introduce making a small charge to members of between £20 per annum and £150 per annum, dependent on size and structure, to put in place a contract. We will request members to complete a simple form, primarily to ensure that we have up to date contact details, and request the monies at the same time. The charges are set out in the Regulations.

As a final point, as noted in the agenda, there is a resolution which needs to be passed to amend the existing constitution and approve the transfer of the underlying assets and liabilities of Surrey County Lawn Tennis Association to the new company.





# HOSTING *our* KNOCKOUT FINALS

**W**e are always on the look out for clubs who would be willing to host a Surrey Knockout finals day. It is important that we try to give the opportunity of hosting to as many clubs as we can right across the county as it is the perfect way to increase awareness amongst our players of what an incredible variety of clubs and venues we have in Surrey! Hosting a Surrey competition is a fantastic way to introduce a large number of players and spectators to your venue and there are plenty of opportunities to generate revenue through the sale of food and drink. We do require that host venues are able to provide at least four all weather courts and have functioning toilets and changing rooms. If you would like your venue to be the next host of a Surrey finals day then simply email [competitions@surrey.tennis](mailto:competitions@surrey.tennis)

In addition, we have notes on our website about how to apply for the role of host and what we are looking for in a host venue. We also have a list of venues that have hosted a Surrey finals day in the past.



# REVIEW OF 2023

