

HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE TENNIS

2023 AGM Reports Pack

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TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

8U COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 8U team played teams representing Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire at The Shrewsbury Club on Saturday 22nd April 2023 as part of The County Cup Championship 2023 Group H.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Harvey Ravenscroft

Boys Team: Sam Boardman, Huo Speller, Robin Whitewood and James Marlow

Arrival:

The boy's event is first. Everyone makes their own way to The Shrewsbury Club. Thank you to the parents as the players arrived in good time for a warm up. The event is held indoors and we take 2 mini courts for our team. There is music playing and the team seem in good spirits.

Round 1 - Shropshire:

The singles matches were very competitive. Sam came very close just losing out on both his matches 12-10 and Hugo finds the matches tough going. Robin wins both well and James and beats Oliver but loses to Jacob. 5 – 3 down after the singles and to level the match we need both doubles. Robin and James win 10 – 7 but Sam and Hugo lose 10 – 7 to Zayn and Jasper.

6- 4 Loss

Round 2 - Cheshire:

Cheshire have a strong team and only Robin manages to get the only H&W win in the singles. 12 - 10 over Keyaan is a great result for Robin who chased down lots of balls and fought really well. The boys are trying hard but lose out on both doubles. Competitive matches but a couple of unforced errors makes all the difference in these short formats.

9-1 Loss

Round 3 – Staffordshire:

After the two loses the team have nothing to lose and play great tennis against the Staffordshire team. 7-1 up after the singles and a lot more smiles coming from the team. Both doubles matches are very close with Robin and James just winning 11-9 over Arlo and Oscar, and Sam and Hugo beating Stanley and Logan by the same score.

9-1 Win

Girls Team: Jemima Conyers, Jasmine Orgee, Julia Onak and Ariana Hardie

Arrival:

Thank you to the parents as the players arrived in good time for a warm up. As the boy's event is still taking place Harvey gets the girls going with a physical warm- up and hitting. The girls look quietly excited.

Round 1 - Shropshire:

A strong Shropshire team very start well but Ariana and Julia both have good wins over Phoebe. 6 - 2 down after the singles. Having lost their singles Jasmine and Julia put in an amazing performance in to beat Elizabeth and Charlotte 12 – 10. A match which H&W had a good lead in but the Shropshire girls fought back (with a couple of net cords) to make thoroughly entertaining. Julia and Ariana narrowly lose the doubles 10-8.

7- 3 Loss

Round 2 - Cheshire:

Cheshire again, like their boys, have a strong team. Cheshire win all the singles matches seeming to be able to find great angles and move our girls around well. Jemima and Jasmine work well together and play another great game of doubles narrowly losing 11-9 to Poppy and Tracy. Ariana and Julia lose to Carmelita and Nyah 10-1.

10-0 Loss

Round 3 – Staffordshire:

The girls after the first two rounds are playing for 3rd place against Staffordshire. Jemima and Jasmine lose their singles matches to Alicia and Casey but Julia and Ariana win both their matches against Niamh and Michelle. 4 - 4 after the singles and all to play for in the doubles! Ariana and Julia win well using great consistency 10-2. Jemima and Jasmine are battle really hard and capitalize on a few on the Staffordshire girls unforced errors to win 10-4. The girls feel really good finishing on a win!

6-4 Win

Summary:

- Both boys and girls team finish in 3rd place
- Lots of close competitive matches
- Great to experience their first County Cup
- Keep up the hard work and training

My thanks to Harvey for assisting and to the parents for their support!

Chris Marlow, Captain.

9U COUNTY CUP REPORT

9U Girls

Team: Luna Lagomarsino, Evelina Skridla, Lottie Haines, Florence Northall, Iona Laidler

The girls were up first against a tough Staffordshire side. Luna and Evelina got the team off to a great start with some strong hitting from the baseline, outlasting their opponents. Staffordshire pulled it back at 3 and 4 singles to level the tie at 2-2 going into the doubles. Florence and Luna fought against a strong first doubles pair but couldn't break through but H&W's second pair made up of Lottie and Evelina did excellently really working well together to beat Staffordshire's second pair. The match therefore was decided in a shootout tiebreak with one person from each pair being selected and so up stepped Luna and Evelina. They produced a faultless performance and managed to win the tie-break 10-1 to win the tie.

Girls Result: 4-3 win

Up next for the girls was the highest ranked county Warwickshire. Again first up was Luna and Evelina who again repeated their success in singles winning the first 2 rubbers. Iona and Lottie did well at number 3 and 4 but Warwickshire had a strong all-rounded team and came back to make it 2-2. Into the doubles and this time it was Luna and Lottie's turn to step up and beat Warwickshire's strongest pairing. The girls were both so consistent and Lottie did brilliantly to step up at number 1 doubles and match the other girls for their power. Warwickshire came back to set up another shootout so again up stepped Luna and Evelina who again produced some brilliant tennis to win the tie breaker 10-6.

Girls Result: 4-3 win

Next up for the girls was Shropshire who were determined to make it difficult for H&W. Luna started off the tie with another win before Evelina, Florence and Iona struggled against some talented Shropshire girls. Therefore H&W went in to the doubles this time 3-1 down knowing they would have to turn it around in order to qualify for the finals. Both matches were up and down but both pairs this time for H&W came through with Florence and Luna winning at number 1 doubles and Lottie and Evelina winning at number 2. Another shootout for the girls and again another amazing tie break performance meant 3 victories for H&W and a place in the national finals.

Girls Result: 4-3 win

Our overall position was 1st for the H&W Girls. Warwickshire came 2nd with Staffordshire in 3rd and Shropshire in 4th.

The H&W girls showed that they love a tight battle and absolutely deserve their place next month in the county finals.

Well done to all the players, and thanks to all the parents for their positive support throughout the day.

9U Boys

Team: Andrew Marlow, Luca Mainini, Harry Mifflin, Sam Richardson, William Morris

Andrew and Luca were up first against Staffordshire. Andrew looked up for the challenge of playing at number 1 and started off his 9&U campaign with some excellent serving and big forehands to win his first match. Staffordshire number 2 was consistent and fought past Luca t number 2 before Sam and Harry came on and produced some excellent tennis to get wins at 3 and 4 meaning going into the doubles H&W were in a strong position 3-1 up. Harry and Andrew paired up at number 1 and beat their opponents well before William and Sam won to settle the tie and make it 5-1 to H&W.

Boys Result: 5-1 win

Next up was a very strong Warwickshire side with 4 of their 5 players inside the top 30 in the country. All 4 players battled and really fought hard against them but couldn't get any success and therefore went 4-0 down after singles. In the doubles H&W had nothing to lose and the pairings of Sam and Harry and Luca and Andrew produced some of the best tennis of the day before both just losing out on tie breaks 8-6 and 11-9 respectively. Some really brave performances and excellent tennis.

Boys Result: 6-0 loss

Last matches of the day were H&W and Shropshire. Andrew, Luca, Harry and William all came out onto court and really played some aggressive hard hitting tennis overpowering their opponents getting H&W off to a 4-0 head start in the singles. Both pairs came out flying in the doubles too and the boys got a much deserved 6-0 win to finish off their county cup campaign and achieve a second place finish.

Boys Result: 6-0 win

The H&W boys showed that they are a strong team and performed well on the day to deserve their 2nd place finish.

Well done to all the players, and thanks to all the parents for their positive support throughout the day.

Matt Tully

9U Boys & Girls County Captain

9U GIRLS NORTH AREA FINALS REPORT

After winning the previous county event the girls were through to the North Area Finals which were being played at Loughborough University. The girls were super excited about the event and looked forward to competing against some of the best counties in the country. H&W would come up against West of Scotland, Cheshire, Cambridgeshire and Lancashire.

Team: Luna Lagomarsino, Evelina Skridla, Lottie Haines, Florence Northall and Iona Laidler.

First up for the girls was West of Scotland. Luna was at no.1 singles and produced an intelligent performance changing the pace of the ball and waiting for her opponent to make the errors to win 4-0. Evelina at number 2 faced a strong player who hit the ball side to side forcing her to make the mistakes and so couldn't get the win. Lottie at number 3 battled really hard forcing the set to go to a tiebreak with some excellent tennis, moving around the court at speed to chase everything down and hitting some great deep shots to force errors from her opponent. The tie-break was a really close battle with no player able to stretch a lead until right at the end when the West of Scotland girl took her match point to make it 8-6. Florence played at no.4 singles and tried hard but the West of Scotland girl was too consistent and took the win. In doubles Evelina and Lottie produced some brilliant doubles to get the win for H&W but Florence and Luna struggled against a strong first pair.

Result: 4-2 Loss

Next was a strong Cheshire side who had very good strength in depth. Luna faced a very good number 1 player who continually tried to hit the ball hard to the side of Luna coming into the net to try and finish the point but Luna was too skillful and made her opponent play too many awkward shots getting another 4-0 win. Evelina, Lottie and Iona played this time at 2,3 & 4 producing some good tennis but this Cheshire side wasn't prepared to lose and battled hard to get all 3 wins. Into the doubles and possibly match of the day was an amazing performance at number 1 doubles by Luna and Florence who played so well to win 4-3. Florence produced some amazing shots to win the points in the tiebreak when under real pressure.

Result: 4-2 Loss

Cambridgeshire were the highest ranked county and had a team full of big hitters. A difficult task was ahead for the H&W girls but they were determined to give it their best shots. And that they did, Lottie, Evelina and Florence produced some good tennis but Cambridgeshire were too strong but reliable Luna got a third win without losing a game again controlling the game with her change of pace and skills to defend under pressure. The doubles was difficult and neither pair could get the win.

Result: 5-1 Loss

Last match of the day was against Lancashire who were fighting for second place with Cheshire. Luna topped off her perfect singles performances with a 4th 4-0 win. Iona did really well at number 4 with a performance that deserved a lot more than the score. Lottie and Evelina

continued to show their hard work and determination to battle away but the Lancashire girls were slightly too strong this time and took the doubles too.

Result: 5-1 Loss

The girls produced performances that the whole county can be proud of. It was a long day at Loughborough and they were still playing and practicing with each other right until the very end showing their love of the game and determination to keep going and improving. It was a great experience for them to be involved in a county finals and they definitely showed that they deserved to be there. The girls will learn from this experience and I'm sure they will be coming back even stronger. Thank you to all the players and parents who came and supported on the day.

Matt Tully

9&U Girls County Captain



10U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Team: Ruben Chelvarajah Lopez, Zander Archer, George Orgee, Andrew Marlow, Robert Hambridge.

The boys were determined to build on their success from Corby which was earlier on in the year and were excited to represent their county travelling to Shropshire to face Shropshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

The first tie on the Saturday was against a tough Warwickshire team. Andrew and George were up first at 3&4 singles. Andrew playing an age group up after some great performances in the 9&U county cup faced a strong consistent Warwickshire on the hard courts. Andrew fought hard trying to produce angles, drop shots to draw his opponent in as well as using his attacking forehands to win points against his opponent. Andrew lost a close first set 4-2 before then losing the second set 4-1 but came away making the team proud with his performance and effort level. At the same time George was battling against a very consistent Warwickshire player. The first set went back and forth with George trying hard to open up the court using his big game to his advantage. After 3 games all there was a tiebreak to decide the first set but George couldn't get the win and lost the second set 4-1.

Zander and Ruben played at number 2 and number 1 singles with Zander fighting hard and producing a performance that wasn't really reflected by the score. He played well using his lefty forehand to hit winners past his opponent but the opposition didn't miss many shots and got the 4-0 4-0 win. Ruben had an extremely tight game claiming the first set 4-3 with both players producing some excellent tennis. Ruben cleverly placed the ball around to frustrate the big hitting opposition. The second set also went to a tiebreak which Ruben lost and so the match would be decided by a championship tiebreak. Ruben battled but couldn't get the win and lost the tiebreak 10-4. Again all 4 players competed well in the singles.

For the doubles Ruben and Zander paired up at number 1 doubles and put into practice exactly what we have been working on in training to produce some attacking doubles play, often finishing the point off at the net but the pair fell slightly short just losing out 2-4 4-3 11-9

Andrew and George had another difficult match and lost 4-1 4-0 to a strong pair.

Result: 6-0 Loss

The second match of the day was against Staffordshire who had just lost out to Shropshire. The H&W players were determined to make a comeback and get the victory and so George and this time Robert set off determined to get the victory. Robert had a tricky match and didn't get himself off to the best start losing 4-0 but fought really hard in the second set producing some excellent tennis using his big forehand and serve to his advantage but just fell short in the second set losing a close tiebreak. With George there was no messing about and he raced to a 4-0 4-0 win.

Next up was Zander and Ruben, there was no messing about with both of them getting the wins 4-0 4-0 and 4-1 4-0 to set H&W 3-1 up going into the doubles. This time it was left to Robert and Andrew in the doubles and both players gelled nicely together complimenting each other's games and really motivating each other to get the best from both players which was really nice to see. The pair won their match 4-3 4-0. Zander and Ruben bounced back after their defeat in their previous doubles and didn't waste much time getting a 4-2 4-0 win.

Result: 5-1 win

Day 1 complete and the team were back the following day bright and early ready to warm up and face Shropshire. Andrew and George got H&W off to a winning start with both players getting early out of the blocks and producing some perfect tennis to win 4-0 4-0 and 4-0 4-0. Zander had a really tough match against a player who would not miss. Both players locked horns and played some tennis they can both be proud of with the ball being hit hard back and forth with neither player missing. The score was 4-2 4-0 to Shropshire but again Zander deserved more from this match. Last up Ruben played some confident tennis and handled himself extremely well winning 4-1 4-0.

Again 3-1 up in the singles Robert and George this time teamed up. Both players worked well again showing how this team can be so versatile producing good tennis with whoever they play with. The boys got a 4-2 4-1 win. Zander and Ruben teamed up again winning the first set 4-1 but the Shropshire boys came back winning the second set 4-1 and edging the tiebreak.

Result: 4-2 Win

The boys did brilliantly over the weekend and we can be really proud of how the county was represented by 5 determined players. They finished 2nd to a strong Warwickshire side and have gained some valuable experience for their tennis careers going forward as well as a great weekend with their tennis mates.

Well done to all the players, and thanks to all the parents for being so supportive over the weekend.

Matt Tully, 10U Boys County Captain

10U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 10U Girls team played teams representing Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Cheshire at Manor Park Tennis Club on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st May 2023 as part of The County Cup Championship 2023 Girls North Group D.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Ruby Taylor, Summer Nicol, Luna Lagomarsino, Allegra Iovanel, Elizabeth Vernon

Arrival:

The team arrive on time at 9am on a beautiful sunny day ready for a great weekend. We warm up listening to music and the girls are in great spirits. Team briefings over we are ready to play.

Day 1 vs Cheshire:

Luna and Allegra go on first. Luna is playing great tennis retrieving lots of balls but Lucy is able to attack through her defence. Luna loses out 4-2 4-1. Allegra struggles to find her rhythm in the first set and loses 4-0. After winning a game she settles down improves her ball striking and wins the second set 4-1. Staying calm Allegra wins the match tie-break 10-6, a great come back! Ruby and Summer head on to court. Ruby, playing fantastic aggressive tennis to control the match wins 4-0 4-1. Summer is playing Lois who is not letting her find her rhythm. Lois, hitting lots of winners and unforced errors takes the first set 4-1 and Summer is clearly frustrated. Summer keeps going and makes the rallies last longer and Lois starts to miss more and slows her game down. Summer builds up her confidence and wins the second set 4-1 and takes the match tie-break 10-5. Another great come back!

The doubles are played straight after. Ruby and Summer go down 3-0 in the first set. Looking down, Ruby plays some great attacking balls through the net player to start their come back. Summer and Ruby gain in confidence and the H&W girls look more energised. The girls force the tie-break and with great serving and solid both back doubles win it 7-2. Fully engaged the girls go on to win 4-3 (2) 4-1. Luna and Lizzie are engaged in a very close match that swings in momentum. Luna hustling around the court and Lizzie playing some great attacking balls just see off Lois and Eva 3-4(2) 4-3(3) 10-7. A great win for the girls in a thoroughly entertaining match.

5 -1 Win

Day 1 vs Yorkshire:

Yorkshire have a strong team but our girls are up for the challenge. Ruby and Summer are on first to give Luna a rest after their epic doubles against Cheshire. Ruby is playing Emmanuella who has a very powerful game and fast serve. Ruby absorbs a lot of pressure and keeps the set tight and just takes the first set. Emmanuella starts to find some better serves, good angles and drop shots to move Ruby around. Emmanuella goes on to win the second set and match 3-4(5) 4-1 10-5. A great effort from Ruby. Summer and Alessia are also involved in a tight match. In an emotional match

that Summer played some of her best tennis of the weekend, attacking and fighting hard she just loses out 4-3 3-4 13-11, another epic match and Summer should be pleased with her performance. Luna and Allegra then go on and again both of their matches go to match tie-breaks! Luna battles back from a set down against Isabella who has a very attacking game but loses out 4-2 1-4 10-8. Luna battled like a trooper and made herself very difficult to break down. Allegra is winning comfortably against Nayvie who is struggling to find her range. At 3-2 up in the second set at match point to Allegra, Nayvie does what appears to be a double fault however Allegra plays on loses the point. At sudden death deuce Nayvie plays a good point and forces the tie break. Feeling more nervous as Nayvie's level improves Allegra loses the second set. Nayvie is playing well and goes 5-1 up in tie-break at the change of ends. 6-1 Nayvie. Allegra digs deep and starts her own fight back. Making more attacking balls and regaining her confidence she wins the match 4-0 3-4(5) 11-9. A fabulous win!

The doubles matches are still live. Luna and Lizzie battle through a tight first set and win the second comfortably 4-3(5) 4-0 but Ruby and Summer can't get a foothold in their match against Isabella and Emmanuella as Emmanuella dominates the play with great power and good feel on her volleys. A long day finishing after 7pm!

4-2 Loss

Day 2 vs Derbyshire:

The girls are on top form in their warm up and bouncing away to music and getting ready to play. The Derbyshire team have lost to the other counties but our girls remain focussed. Allegra and Luna make short work of Nancy and Freya both only conceding one game each. Summer beats Eadie 4-0 4-0 with a dominant display. Ruby plays Coco who has not yet lost a singles match. Ruby takes the first game well but Coco finds her rhythm and then dominates the match hitting winners from all over the court. Ruby loses 4-1 4-0 to a very impressive player.

Summer and Ruby play Coco and Freya. Keeping the ball away from Coco where possible the H&W girls do a great job of neutralising Coco's attacking play. Ruby and Summer win 4-1 4-0. Luna and Lizzie comfortably beat Eadie and Verity 4-1 4-2. Although the matches were tough for the Derbyshire team they were really gracious and it was a very friendly match.

5-1 Win

Summary:

- The girls team finish in 2nd place
- Lots of very close competitive matches (7 match tie-breaks)
- H&W won 5 out of 6 doubles matches
- Lizzie and Allegra with 100% records for the weekend – well done!
- Congratulations to Yorkshire in 1st place.

My thanks to Katy for assisting and to all the parents for their support!

11U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 11U Girls team played teams representing Shropshire, Staffordshire, Gloucestershire and Cheshire at Manor Park Tennis Club on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June 2023 as part of The County Cup Championship 2023 Girls Division 2c.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Zoe Walsh, Beth Hooper, Ava Turner, Summer Nicol and Ruby Taylor

Arrival Day 1:

The team arrive on time at 9am on a wet morning. The courts barely look playable but the forecast is set to improve. We warm up and the girls are in good spirits looking forward to the weekend. The courts dry up nicely. Team photos taken and we are ready to play.

Shropshire singles:

Ruby and Summer go on first. Ruby plays a solid first match against Heinga winning 4-1 4-2. Summer has a tough game with Carley and loses out narrowly 3-4 (5) 2-4. Beth faces Sophia who is moving well around the court. Beth uses her power to win 4-1 4-3(2). Zoe faces Grace who is incredibly consistent, using good topspin to move Zoe all over the court. Zoe fights hard and is improving well as the match goes on but loses out 1-4 2-4.

2-2 after the singles matches

Staffordshire singles:

Ruby plays a great match comfortably beating Victoria 4-0 4-0. Ava goes on for her first match and is involved with a tussle against Ruby. Ava wins the first set 4-3(5) but then goes 0-3 in the second set. Showing real grit Ava fights back to 3-3 and wins the tie-break 7-5. Beth hits lost of winners past Elisha winning 4-1 4-0 while Zoe is involved in another tough match. Carrying on her improving form from the end of her last match Zoe wins the first set 4-2. Sonya struggling with her serve but playing excellent groundstrokes takes the second set 2-4. The match tie-break was very tense with quite a few unforced errors from both girls. Zoe holds it together and Sonya double faults on match point. Zoe wins 12-10.

4-0 after the singles matches.

Shropshire doubles:

After a delay whilst waiting for other matches to finish the girls go on to play the doubles against Shropshire. As the match is level at 2-2 after the singles everything is to play for! Beth and Ruby play Carly and Heinga. The girls play great both back doubles and attack the net player effectively to win 4-1 4-2. Summer and Zoe play Sophia and Grace. Trying to keep the ball away from Grace who is playing some excellent tennis the girls keep the match close and force a tie-break. The

Shropshire girls play a great tie-break winning the set 3-4(1) and go on to comfortably win the second set 1-4. Time for a shootout!! Ruby and Summer go on to face Grace and Carly. The H&W pair start brilliantly and there is lots of energy as they get to 9-6 up. A couple of misses and then a net-cord and suddenly the match points are gone and its 9-9. Looking frustrated and down at the change of ends and a question of whether the Shropshire girls have been changing sides to return serve the H&W pair look almost out of it. The Shropshire team get 2 match points at 9-10 and 10-11 but Ruby and Summer do brilliantly to stay in the match and get more pumped up! Ruby plays a couple of attacking forehands and the girls win the match 15-13. Very exciting!

H&W wins 4-3

Staffordshire doubles:

After a great win against Shropshire the girls are feeling good and go on to play their doubles against Staffordshire. Beth and Ava beat Sonya and Victoria 4-1 4-2 and Summer and Ruby beat Elisha and Ruby 4-2 4-1. Solid performances from the whole team.

H&W win 6-0

We leave the venue at 7:15pm after a very long but good day of tennis.

Arrival Day 2:

We arrive at 8:45am to warm up listening to music on a bright sunny morning. The forecast is for thunderstorms later so we have use of the indoor courts to help speed up the days play.

Gloucestershire singles:

All the girls go on to play their singles at once. Zoe plays some good tennis but loses out 0-4 2-4 to Lily. Beth plays a great match striking the ball well to beat Mia 4-2 4-1. Summer playing her best tennis of the weekend plays brilliantly to beat Arunpat 4-3(0) 4-3(4) while Ruby comfortably overpowers Phoebe and wins 4-0 4-1.

3-1 after the singles matches

Cheshire singles:

Playing in the indoor centre the girls know the courts well from county training. Ruby plays Emma and wins 4-1 4-1. Ruby has won all 4 of her singles matches over the weekend playing some great tennis. Summer plays Lois who is hitting the ball very hard. Summer continues to play well after her earlier singles win but Lois looking in control wins 2-4 1-4. Beth has a close match against Sophie. She does well to force two tie-breaks but loses out 4-3(5) 4-3(4). Zoe plays her best tennis of the weekend for 6 games against a very consistent Amy. Hitting big shots and retrieving well Zoe gets a lead of 4-0 2-0. Amy's head never goes down and she keeps fighting. Zoe loses her momentum and rhythm and loses the next 4 games. Another match tie-break. Still struggling with her timing Zoe goes down 2-4 at the first change. A couple of encouraging longer rallies and Zoe starts feeling the ball better and is clearly regaining her confidence. Zoe does well to save a

match point and at 11-10 up Zoe has found herself at the net, she hits a backhand volley off the net-cord which bounces twice just out of reach of Amy. 12-10 a great win!

2-2 after the singles

Gloucestershire doubles:

Back outside Zoe and Ava have a tough match against Lily and Mia. Both of the Gloucestershire girls volley well and hit accurately from the baseline. Zoe and Ava lose 0-4 2-4. Ruby and Beth are on form attacking the net players and Lily and Phoebe struggle in the first set. A couple of unforced errors from the H&W pair made the second set closer but they still won 4-2 4-0.

H&W win 4-2

Cheshire doubles:

After the singles we are 2-2. Our final doubles matches of the weekend decide if H&W or Cheshire will finish top. Beth and Ava have a great tussle against Sophie and Lois. They just lose out 3-4(2) 2-4. Summer and Ruby play Amy and Olive. Summer is struggling to find her form and Amy and Olive confidently win the first set 1-4. At 0-3 the H&W girls do well to fight back to 2-3 but with too many unforced errors the match slips away. Well done Cheshire.

H&W loses 2-4

Summary:

- The girls team finish in 2nd place and should be really pleased with their performances over the weekend
- Lots of very close competitive matches (10 set tie-breaks and 2 match tie-breaks, 1 shootout)
- Great experience and plenty of positives to take away
- Congratulations to Cheshire in 1st place.

My thanks to Katy for assisting and to all the parents for their support!

12U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 12U Girls team played teams representing Shropshire, Cumbria, Staffordshire, North Wales and Cheshire at The Shrewsbury Tennis Club on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th September 2023 as part of The County Cup Championship 2023 Girls Division 2a.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Grace Hadley, Mia Sztorc, Halle Lees-Howell and Fikayo Orebiyi

Arrival Day 1:

The team arrive on time at 9:30am on a grey morning. The forecast is for heavy rain on Sunday afternoon so a decision is made to play as much tennis as possible today. We warm up and the girls are in good spirits looking forward to the weekend. Team photos taken and we are ready to play.

Shropshire:

Fikayo and Halle go on first. Fikayo plays a solid first match demonstrating great athleticism against Heinga winning 4-0 4-2. Halle wins the first set 4-2 against Carley. At 3-1 up 40-0 up Carley knuckles down and fights back saving the 4 match points in that game and then saves another at 3-2. Halle is feeling the pressure. Halle recovers and stays cool in the set tie-break and closes the match out 7-3. Mia faces Vv and outpowers her to win 4-2 4-1. Grace plays Maddie who is incredibly consistent, using good topspin. Grace plays a stunning first set and wins it 4-2. A slight drop in intensity from Grace and Maddie draws level 2-4. Grace composes herself well and Maddie seems to get tight, Grace wins the match tie-break 10-3.

4-0 after the singles matches

Halle and Fikayo face Carley and Heinga and the match is very close. Shropshire win the first set 3-4 with a few unforced errors from H&W. Playing more consistently H&W win the second set 4-2. The match tie-break ends up being very tight with each team having multiple match points. Fikayo is keeping cool and making lots of balls and at 17-16 Halle attacks a short forehand that goes off for a winner winning the match 18-16 – what an epic game! Grace and Mia play Maddie and Vv. Good quality cross court hitting and attacking down the line from Grace and Mia to secure the first set 4-2. Improved volleys from Shropshire and H&W going slightly passive, Maddie and Vv take the second set 2-4. Shropshire go 1-5 up at the first change of ends in the match tie-break and the H&W girls need to re-group. They fight back to 6-6 at the following change. Grace and Mia looking back in control and confident, they see the match out 10-7.

H&W win 6-0

Cumbria:

After a long break waiting for other counties to play, Fikayo goes on. She is moving well and directing her balls beautifully and wins 4-0 4-0. Halle finds the first set tough against Grace losing 0-4. Halle fights back winning the second 4-2 with improved movement and consistency. The match tie-break is played nervously by both girls. Grace gets over the line for Cumbria winning 7-10. Mia beats Harriet 4-2 4-0 with a great demonstration of attacking tennis firing lots of winners. Grace stayed consistent against Erin who was hitting very hard but erratically. Grace always looked in control winning 4-1 4-0.

4-0 after the singles matches.

Arrival Day 2:

Another grey morning but with the threat of rain later everyone is keen to get going. We warm up and are ready for our doubles matches against Cumbria.

Both doubles pairings go on and outclass their opposition. Halle and Fikayo play very consistent tennis and beat Annabelle and Jessie 4-1 4-0. Grace and Mia use good intercepting volleys and superior power on their groundstrokes to dominate Erin and Harriett winning 4-1 4-1.

H&W win 5-1

H&W now playoff against Cheshire for 1st or 2nd place

Cheshire:

Fikayo plays Amy. Amy is moving well and relentlessly consistent. The match has some excellent rallies, but Amy wins for Cheshire 1-4 1-4. Halle plays her best tennis of the weekend serving amazingly and fighting in every rally. She keeps the first set close but loses out 2-4. Although Halle is still playing well Lois improves her level and closes out the match. Mia is involved in a quality match against Ginjupalli. Both girls are hitting deep powerful topspin balls but unfortunately Mia loses out 2-4 2-4. Grace playing brilliant angles and attacking can only occasionally break down Millie who plays very composed tennis. Grace plays a great match but loses out 2-4 1-4.

H&W 0-4 down after the singles.

Halle and Fikayo still playing great tennis after their singles play well in all areas, serving, groundstrokes and net. With great teamwork they stay calm winning the first set tie-break against Lois and Amy and then close out the match 4-3 4-1. Grace and Mia are also both still playing brilliantly and keeping to the strategy of playing on the weaker player and then looking for intercepting opportunities the beat Millie and Tabitha 4-1 4-2.

Cheshire Win 4-2

Summary:

- The girls team finish in 2nd place and should be really pleased with their performances over the weekend
- 100% of doubles matches won

- Lots of very close competitive matches (3 out of 4 match tie-breaks won)
- Great team spirit
- Congratulations to Cheshire in 1st place.

My thanks go out to Katy for assisting and to all the parents for their support.

Chris Marlow, Captain

12U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

12U County Cup at Chesterfield Lawn Tennis Club, Derbyshire.

Captain: Matt Tully

Assistant: Josh Price

Team:

- Oliver A
- Eshaan N
- Jack HD
- Dhruv D
- Tom M

This year the 12U H&W boys were placed into division 2b with there being 2 groups of 3 teams.

H&W vs Gloucestershire

The first tie on the Saturday was against Gloucestershire. Dhruv and Jack were up first at 3&4 singles. Both boys have been working hard on their games over the past year and were keen to show how they have progressed. Dhruv and Jack both tried to get their strong forehands into play as much as possible but both had tough opposition and Dhruv lost 4-1 4-2 and Jack lost 4-1 4-3 getting the second set to a tight tiebreak with some good tennis. Eshaan and Ollie had tough matches too with Eshaan playing an age group up and Ollie facing tough opposition at number 1.

Eshaan faced a tall player and so he was determined not to let his opposition push him back too much so continually battled away taking the ball early, on the rise working hard on getting his body behind the ball. Unfortunately, this wasn't enough and he suffered a 4-1 4-3 loss with another tight second set. Ollie couldn't quite find his form that we would see during the rest of the weekend and he lost 4-2 4-2 against Gloucestershire's number 1.

Next up was doubles with Ollie teaming up with Tom Maidment who is always entertaining to watch with his range of skillful shots and flexibility. The boys had a tight first set just losing out on a tiebreak and couldn't recover and find their form losing the second set 4-1. At the same time Dhruv and Eshaan paired up and faced a confident doubles pairing who beat them 4-1 4-0.

Result: 6-0 Loss

H&W vs North Wales

The second match of the day was against North Wales and the boys wanted to up their games in this one to get the win. This time it was Tom, Jack, Eshaan and Ollie for the singles. Tom, Jack and Eshaan all had really close sets with the scores going back and forwards before each of them going to a tiebreak. Unfortunately none of them went H&W's way with Jack losing the closest one 10-8. The boys were tasked with can we be resilient, can we bounce back after really close losses of the first sets. Eshaan was up for the battle and came back winning his second set 4-2. Another tie-

break was to decide this one and Eshaan couldn't quite get his shots to work at the right moment and lost 10-2 in the championship tiebreak. Tom and Jack faced players with growing confidence and couldn't do enough to turn the matches around losing out on really close games on sudden death deuces. It was up to Ollie to keep us in the game and he came out with a much more aggressive and positive attitude dominating the first set and winning it 4-0. The second set seemed to slip by with some tight games and Ollie started to realise how quickly a fast 4 set can get away and lost the second set 4-1. Ollie had to win this one to keep us in with a shout going into the doubles. The tie-break was close all the way and his opposition had a match point at 9-8. Ollie produced fearless shots as if there was nothing to lose and came into the net to force the mistake from his opponent. More match points than followed for Ollie before he managed to convert to win the match 12-10.

Going into the doubles captains Matt & Josh needed more from the boys, we needed to be more clinical, more resilient, more energy! A big team talk was in order and this time Dhruv and Jack and Ollie and Eshaan were sent out to turn this tie around. Both pairs got the first sets 4-0 playing more aggressively, taking their volley chances and winning sudden-death deuces. Exactly the response we wanted from the team! Ollie and Eshaan continued to win the second set 4-0 also and Jack and Dhruv had a closer second set but still won it 4-3 to level the tie altogether and force a Shootout. One person from each pair had to step up to play a 10 point tiebreak to decide the tie. Jack and Ollie were up for it and came out producing some brilliant tennis with big serving, big forehands, and smart shots to get the 10-6 win.

Result 4-3 Win

With day 1 complete the boys finished second place in their group and therefore had a 3rd and 4th play off the following day. With it being a fair distance away the boys stayed in hotels close to the venue with their parents.

H&W vs South Wales

South Wales narrowly missed out on first place in their group losing on a shootout so we knew that it would be another difficult match up for the boys. Dhruv and Jack were again up for the singles at 3 and 4. Both battled away and wanted to get their team off to a good start building on the Saturday afternoons success. After long first sets Dhruv missed out on another tiebreak and Jack 4-2 before both losing the second sets 4-2 and 4-1 respectively. Eshaan and Ollie needed to turn it around and Ollie produced his best performance of the weekend comfortably winning his match 4-1 4-1 piecing together some excellent attacking play. Eshaan fought hard but couldn't level the tie losing out narrowly 4-2 4-3.

In the doubles Ollie and Eshaan produced an epic match with it lasting over 90 minutes. After losing the first set 4-2 they came back to win the second 4-3 and then the championship tiebreak 11-9. A really entertaining watch with some brilliant tennis. Jack and Tom narrowly missed out on the first set 4-3 and couldn't turn it around in the second set and lost it 4-1.

Result 4-2 Loss

The boys did brilliantly over the weekend and we can be really proud of how the county was represented by 5 determined players. They were definitely a lot of fun to be around, acted with a

high level of sportsmanship, definitely improved their tennis as the weekend went on and were even enjoying their tennis afterwards with a fun game of around the world. A 4th place finish overall was probably where the rankings of each team placed the boys. Going back into training, the boys will be focusing on the big points, tiebreaks and being resilient to overcome tight losses.

Well done to all the players, assistant captain Josh Price and thanks to all the parents for being so supportive over the weekend.

Matt Tully, 12U Boys County Captain

14U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Team: Callum Hooper, Harry Emmett, Ollie Stevens, Ayrton Little, Oliver Arch, Tom Griffiths

The boys were determined to build on their success from Corby which was earlier on in the year and were excited travelling down to Leicester to face Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire in their box.

The first tie on the Saturday was against Gloucestershire who had a strong team with all 4 boys ranked fairly highly in the country. Ollie and Ayrton were up first at 3&4 singles. Ayrton faced a consistent player who wouldn't give up whilst Ollie faced an inform attacking all rounder who was determined to win for his county. Ayrton battled well closing the match out in straight sets 4-2, 4-2 to give H&W the 1-0 lead but after some brilliant tennis, Ollie couldn't quite close out the match despite winning the first set. The Gloucestershire number 3 was able to make a good comeback winning the second set 4-1 and then finishing the tiebreak 10-6.

Callum played a strong no.1 who was also inside the top 50 in the country. Callum played some brave and quality tennis throughout the match sliding from side to side to turn defense into attack before coming forward to finish off his opponent at the net. It was a great battle and Callum was able to close out the match in two tiebreaks 4-3 4-3.

Harry was up against their no.2 and produced some scintillating tennis moving his opponent side to side before slotting away his finishing shots to win 4-2 4-1 and set H&W for the 3-1 lead before the doubles.

For the doubles Callum and Ayrton paired up at number 1 doubles and put into practice exactly what we have been working on in training to produce some attacking doubles play, often finishing the point off at the net to win 4-0 4-3.

Harry and Tom battled through against another tough pair at number 2 doubles producing some brave tennis and working well together to win the first set 4-3 before relaxing more and winning the second set 4-0.

Result: 5-1 Win

That was H&W done for the day and so the team celebrated with a nice meal out parents, coaches and players at a local Nandos in Leicester. The next day the team met early to get some practice in before the big day ahead of them.

The second and final match in their group was against Northamptonshire who had lost to Gloucestershire the day before. Ayrton and Ollie started as they finished off the day yesterday with Ollie winning 4-1 4-0 and Ayrton winning 4-1 4-1. Harry produced another dominant display not losing a game to win his match 4-0 4-0. Next up was Callum against a tricky opponent. Callum won the first set 4-2 but unfortunately slipped in his second set scraping his knee. Despite this Callum battled on but lost the second set 4-1. In the championship tiebreak Callum and his opponent produced excellent tennis but it was the Northamptonshire player that got the 10-8 win in the end. Going into the doubles it was 3-1 to H&W again.



Harry and Tom teamed up again in a tricky match. The pair struggled at times to find their best tennis and lost the first set 4-3. This seemed to kick them into action and the pair united to comeback winning the 2nd set and tiebreak 4-2 10-2 to clinch the match. Then at number 1 doubles it was the Ollie duo with Ollie Stevens and Ollie Arch playing together. They faced tricky opponents as their number 1 and 2 players teamed up. The Ollies fought hard before falling to a 4-2 4-1 loss.

Result: 4-2 win

Winning Group A meant that H&W would face winners of group B- Leicestershire. Both counties had won their first 2 matches and both were looking to better their performances from Corby where we drew. This time though, Leicestershire had their number 1 player so H&W knew that it could be a tricky match.

First up again was Ollie Stevens and Ayrton in the singles. There was a big atmosphere inside the tennis centre with both team supporting their team mates during the match. Ayrton took the first set 4-1 whilst Ollie lost his 4-1 then both matches switched with Ollie winning his second set 4-3 and Ayrton losing his 4-1. Both matches were in tiebreaks and all 4 players were trying their hardest to get that good start for their counties but both Ayrton and Ollie couldn't get the wins so H&W were faced with the difficult challenge of coming back from 2-0 down.

Next up was Callum and Harry who knew they needed wins. Callum produced a flawless performance beating a fast moving Leicestershire number 1 who didn't give up on any balls 4-0 4-0. Harry comfortably took the first set 4-1 before losing the second 4-1 setting up a really important tiebreak. Fortunately Harry dug deep and got the 10-7 win to even up the scores going into the doubles.

Ayrton and Callum returned to the number 1 partnership and it was left to Ollie Arch and Harry at number 2 to try and get the win. H&W produced some brilliant doubles play with both pairs battling away in two close matches. It was superb to watch both pairs looking to intercept at the net and shorten the points along with battling when their opponents were hitting smashes to make one more ball. Ollie and Harry got the win first with a 4-3 4-1 win and all the attention turned to Callum and Ayrton who were facing a tough first pair. The boys came through winning 4-1 4-2 with Ayrton hitting a powerful winner past the net player to finish the match.

Result: 4-2 draw

The boys did brilliantly over the weekend and we are so proud so have finished first in Divison 2b. There isn't a follow on event this time but most of the team have another year left in the 14&Us so they are looking forward to trying to repeat their success next year.

Well done to all the players, and thanks to all the parents and also to Andrew Griffiths for being a brilliant assistant over the weekend.

Matt Tully – Captain

14U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The H&W girls travelled to Caunton in Nottinghamshire for this year's event.

The new format placed us in Division 2B, which was made up of 6 counties in two round Robin groups. Our opponents on the first day were Shropshire & Nottinghamshire.

Our team was Maddie Walsh, Gina Obrey, Grace Hadley, Kiah Probert & Leila Meager.

vs Shropshire

Grace & Kiah were up first for their singles. Kiah took care of business in quick fashion with a 4-0, 4-0 win against their no.4. Grace had a tough match and lost out 4-2, 4-1 to their no.3.

Gina was up next against their number 2 and lost in straight sets.

We were 1-2 down in rubbers with Maddie up against their no.1 player. Maddie played a high level, attacking her groundstrokes and winning the baseline battles to get us to 2-2 with a 4-0, 4-3 win.

It wouldn't be county cup without some doubles to decide the tie. The girls knew their game plans pre match. Maddie & Gina were ruthless as no.1 pair, communicating well and executing their groundstrokes and volleys to win 4-0, 4-0.

Grace & Kiah lost their 1st set in a tie break before changing the momentum of the match in their favour with some solid baseline battles and attacking play to secure the victory with a 3-4, 4-0, 10-3 win.

H&W Win 4-2

vs Nottinghamshire

Our 2nd tie against Nottinghamshire started off well with two straight set wins from Grace and Kiah in their singles. Gina fought back from a set down with more consistent play to win in a match tie break. Maddie had a battle in the first set, she came through on top with a 4-3, 4-0 win.

We were in a good position with a 4-0 lead. We mixed the doubles pairings around. Maddie & Leila were no.1 pair and Gina & Grace no.2 pair.

Maddie & Leila had a close 1st set and with some good attacking play won 4-3, 4-0. Gina & Grace got off to a good start winning the first set, they lost the 2nd set but turned it back around by mixing in some lobs and controlling the net to win the match tie break 10-4.

H&W win 6-0

It was time for some R & R so the team of H&W players, coaches & parents/grandparents enjoyed an evening out for dinner and there was enough time for Gina to get everyone's Power Plaits done ready for the final day of competition.

With a late start on the Sunday, we had time for ten pin bowling in the morning before heading to the club.

vs Northamptonshire

The girls were relaxed ahead of the final against Northamptonshire.

Kiah had a strong start, not giving her opponent an inch in this match, and won 4-0, 4-0. Grace won her 1st set 4-1 before going 0-3 down in the 2nd set. Grace kept fighting, never gave up and attacked at every opportunity to win the match 4-1, 4-3.

2-0 up in the tie with Maddie and Gina left to play singles. Gina won the first set with controlled aggression. The 2nd set was a different story with her opponent taking control and Gina found herself in another match tie break. With a positive mindset Gina won the mental battle and took back control of the match to win 10-3 in the tie break.

Maddie played the final singles match and won 4-1, 4-2 dictating a lot of the points with her groundstrokes which took us to 4-0 and secured the win for H&W.

Maddie & Gina stretched the lead to 5-0 with a comfortable doubles match against the no.1 pair.

Kiah & Leila lost the first set 2-4 in their doubles. We were unbeaten in doubles throughout the weekend, and we were determined to continue our form. The girls stepped up and showed what they were made of to come back and win 4-2, 10-5 to secure another bagel.

H&W win 6-0

Over the weekend the girls only dropped 2 rubbers, they didn't lose a doubles match and they won 4 out of 4 match tie breaks. This was down to their hard work, willingness to listen, sticking to their game plans, and focussing on being mentally strong.

The weekend was a great opportunity for myself and Katy to get to know the girls a little bit more and understand how they feel when competing. We learnt a lot as a team. The girls were amazing on and off the court, we had a lot of fun. They showed immense support for each other throughout the weekend and demonstrated great resilience to get through matches in both singles and doubles.

Thanks to all the parents and grandparents who travelled and supported the team. A big congratulations to Maddie, Gina, Grace, Kiah, and Leila for all their hard work and competing well to get the results over the weekend.

Thanks to Katy Lewin for all her help over the weekend and during training the last year!!

Tony Ravenscroft - H&W 14U Girls Captain

18U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Friday 3rd March – Sunday 5th March 2023 – Taunton

Team: Paulina, Josie, Oliwia, Macy, Caoimhe, Bethany, Holly and Emma.

The team travelled down to Taunton the day before to get settled and to have a hit at the tennis centre in preparation for a very important tie against Buckinghamshire on the Friday.

Day 1 vs Bucks

We knew that day one against Buckinghamshire was going to be tough. All six of their players were ranked higher than our team. Beth & Caoimhe were first up in the singles. They both played well and lost to stronger opponents. Beth lost 1-6, 6-7 to their number 6 and Caoimhe lost 5-7, 4-6 to their number 5.

Macy was up next against their number 4. The first set was so close with nothing between them. Macy played with great heart and played aggressive tennis which made the difference at the business end of the first set with Macy taking it 7-5. She continued her form to win the 2nd set 6-3 to secure the victory. Oliwia had a close battle and lost 5-7, 5-7 to their number 3.

At 1-3 down we had a lot to do, and the girls were up for the challenge. Josie went on against their number two and dropped the first set 5-7. She didn't get fazed by the one set deficit and showed great determination and athletic ability to level things up with a 7-6 set win. During this epic battle Paulina went on against their number one player and showed great resilience and composure to deal with the weapons the other end of the net. Paulina played smart tennis and won a lot of mini battles throughout the match to gain the win 6-1, 6-1 and get the team to 2-3 in rubbers. Josie continued her good form in the 3rd set to make an amazing come back and secure the 3rd rubber with a 5-7, 7-6, 6-3 victory.

It was a brilliant effort from all the girls and great to get to 3-3 after the singles. It was down to the doubles, and we were prepared, knowing we needed two wins out of three. Caoimhe and Beth were up first up. The first set didn't go our way, we were being outplayed by our own tactics, with the Bucks third pair doing what we usually do well, better than us. We couldn't have that!! With some reinforcement of our game plan, the girls showed great determination to commit to being bullet proof from the baseline and controlling the net early in each point. They executed the game plan superbly to come back to earn us a vital rubber to win 1-6, 6-2, 10-7.

Oliwia and Macy played a strong number two pair, they played some great attacking tennis but lost out 2-6, 4-6.

It was a 4-4 tie and up to Paulina and Josie to do well against the Bucks number one pair. The girls were confident after both winning their singles. They showed great authority on court and at times intimidated their opponents with aggressive doubles play to secure the last rubber 6-0, 6-2 to give us the 5-4 victory!!

We knew this was a potential final and we were in good spirits on the Friday evening after the win, but we understood that there was still work to be done, and that we had to take care of business in the remaining ties against Somerset and Staffordshire.

Day 2 vs Somerset

We got off to a great start on Saturday morning against the hosts Somerset. Beth with the first win in less than an hour 6-1, 6-0. Caoimhe had a tough first set and stayed strong mentally to overcome her opponent in the first set with a 7-5 win, and continued the momentum to take the second set 6-0. Macy won 6-2, 6-0 to put us 3-0 to the good. Oliwia battled through a tough first set, playing the important points well and continued her good form in the second set to win 7-6, 6-3. Josie won 6-1, 6-0 and Paulina won 6-3, 6-2 dealing with a mixture of power and touch.

Paulina & Macy, Josie & Oliwia, Beth & Emma paired up in the doubles and they all won in straight sets to gain a 9-0 victory.

Once again, the team were in high spirits and had a bit more time to relax ahead of the final day. We had dinner at Nando's and had some fun in the amusements arcade.

Day 3 vs Staffs

The final day was against Staffordshire and a win would secure us promotion.

Emma was up against a strong number six and played amazing attacking tennis, controlling the baseline when it mattered and gaining advantage from her serve to win the first set 7-5. Her opponent raised her game after the first set, Emma fought hard and lost 4-6, 1-6 in last 2 sets.

Beth was solid from the baseline and won 6-0, 6-0 and Caoimhe followed with a quick 6-1, 6-1 win. Oliwia played with variety to win 6-4, 6-1 and Paulina was dominant with a 6-1, 6-1 win. Josie was last on court and battled through a tough first set, saved 2 set points to take the first set 7-6 then finished with a 6-4 set to secure the 5-1 win and promotion to Division 2!!

It's an amazing achievement to get promoted three years in a row with Paulina, Josie, Caoimhe & Beth all competing in all three years.

The girls were brilliant all three days, on and off the court. Great team spirit. They worked so well as a team and won lots of battles on the court which made the difference when competing for top spot.

Once again it was a pleasure to captain this team. I am very proud of the girls and what they have achieved. A massive well done to the whole team!!

Thanks to Katy Lewin for all her help throughout the event and over the last year during training.

Tony Ravenscroft – H&W 18U Girls Captain

18U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Team:

Sam Laidler, Joe McKay, Callum Hooper, Owen Perry, Sam Cassidy, Tom Round, Alfie Mills and Finlay Shennan

Day 1 vs Durham

Sunderland Tennis Centre is an 8-court indoor facility, with 6 courts allocated to the 18U county cup event. On the first day we were allocated 2 courts on one side of the viewing balcony and 1 court on the other side, making viewing all of the matches the equivalent of a cardio style workout!

The first 3 players on to court were Tom Round, Sam Cassidy & Owen Perry, playing singles at numbers 6, 5 & 4 respectively. Owen went ahead 2-0 in the first set against the Durham no.6 a hold and a break, but couldn't quite hold onto the lead and went on to lose the first set & the with his opponent riding the momentum from the end of the first set, went on to take the match for Durham in two sets.

Sam Cassidy stepped on to court to play his first ever 18U county cup singles match. He got off to an understandably nervy start, and conceded the first set. After a set under his belt, he was able to shake off the nerves and really found some of his best tennis to win the second set 6-2. The third set proved to be a difficult physical challenge as Sam's energy levels wavered. The Durham player was able to maintain his energy and form to take the match in the third for his team.

Tom played his way into the first set of his match well with some great consistent play. Unfortunately, the Durham player was a strong no.6 and seemed to be able to rally all day, making just one extra ball each point. After losing the first set, Tom set out to impose his game onto his opponent, with some fantastic aggressive play. Ultimately the Durham play was too consistent, but none the less a good performance from Tom and a great match to watch.

The next 3 players on court were Callum Hooper, Joe McKay & Sam Laidler. It was another two firsts for Callum and Joe who had never been to an 18U county cup event, let alone played at no.2 & no.3 in singles. Callum (age 13) played the Durham no.3 who was 4 to 5 years older and stronger. He played a fantastic first set with some very good level competitive points, losing out with one break of serve against him. The second set Callum was determined to create opportunities to break serve, which was difficult in the first set as the Durham player was serving big and hitting good spots.

Callum managed to earn a number of break points and converted to get the break back in the middle of the set. The Durham player managed to take the win for his team in the end 7-5 in the second set after a very tight end to the set. A great first performance from Callum.

Joe was on court next against the Durham no.2. Joe has made big improvements to his game over the last year, deservedly earning his no.2 spot in the team. His work rate on court in the match was second to none and he showed good match IQ against his opponent. The Durham player was

fast and managed to make a lot of balls in play, even with Joe using his weapons. Joe managed to find a good balance of big hitting and using angles to try and manoeuvre his opponent around the court. In the end the Durham players consistency was too much and won the match in two sets.

Sam Laidler was on for H&W in the no.1 singles spot. Sam knew going into the weekend that it was going to be a tough ask at the top spot, with the average ranking of the other players at 1 being 150 places above his own. Sam put in a very athletic and entertaining performance against a strong Durham player who was 49 in the UK in the 18U rankings. In the end he lost in 2 sets, but left everything out on court and did his team proud!

Last on for the day was the doubles. Owen and Tom were on at third pair and played a good match, narrowly missing out by a single break in the first set, before coming back strong to win the second set 6-1. The champ tiebreak final set was closely contest right up until the half way point, but just a few good points from the Durham pair was enough to win it for their team in the end.

Alfie Mills subbed in for the doubles, another player who was making their debut 18U appearance, to play with Callum Hooper. The boys competed well through the match, but fell short in the end to an experienced Durham second pair.

By the end of the day of the day, team moral was a little low, but that didn't affect the pair of Sam L & Joe who were as motivated as ever to chalk up a win for the day. The boys played some stunning doubles, with Sam L's reaction volleys and Joe's big forehands and serve's being some of the stand out play of the match. The boys flew into the lead and managed to take the first set. They then narrowly lost out by a break of serve in the second & found themselves in 9-9 in a final set championship tie break. The H&W pair managed to hold their nerve for 2 points in a row and got themselves over the line for a much-welcomed match win and first rubber of the day

Day 2 vs Oxfordshire

Day 2 was always going to be an important one for the team after a loss on the first day. We knew that we would need to try and get a result to give us the best chance to stay in the division and avoid relegation.

The team was motivated and ready to perform for the day. After a good set of performances from all of the players on day 1, we decided that the teams' singles line up would remain the same.

Our first 3 players stepped onto the court, each of them having very tight matches. Owen went down a set in his match, but manage to bring it back to take the second. Owens match went on for what seemed like an age, with some fiercely competitive lengthy exchanges. Whilst fighting off cramp in the third set, the H&W player managed to take the win, with both players coming off court looking ready for a rest.

Sam C went on to court and it was immediately apparent that the starter nerves from the previous day weren't there. He started well and maintained his form throughout the entire match. Sam managed to close the match out 6-3 6-3 looking on top in all of the exchanges.

Tom played another good match against another strong no.6 player for Oxfordshire. He went down a break early in the first set and lost out to the other players consistency, in the second set

Toms level Improved and managed to get away to a good start going a break up. The Oxford player played a very consistent next couple of games to get the break back and to take it to a second set tie break. Tom opponent went on to play a good breaker, with Tom doing all he could, but losing out in the end 7-4. After the first round of singles H&W were 2-1 up.

Callum went on again as the H&W no.3 and played what was arguably the match of the day. He narrowly lost the first set in a tiebreak & then maintained his composure to take the next set in yet another tie break, with some fantastic fast and dynamic baseline exchanges. The Oxford player got off to a good start breaking early in the third and final set and then riding the moment all the way to the end. Callum did all he could to get back into the game, but couldn't find the break back to go down 2-6 in the third.

Joe and Sam L were up against two strong Oxford players for the final singles matches of the day. Joe played some great competitive tennis in the first set, but unfortunately picked up an elbow niggle, which made it challenging to hit through the ball on his forehand. He powered through and tried to keep his footwork intensity high to compensate for the elbow which saw him stay on serve for the first half of the second set, until his opponent managed to get the break at 3-3 and go on to take the second set and the match.

Sam L was able to compete at an even higher level than the previous day. He was able to match his opponent's level for many of the exchanges in the match. His opponent in the end was just a little too consistent at that level and managed to close the match out for the Oxford team.

H&W were 4-2 down going into the doubles. Owen and Tom were back at it again at third pair. They had another very competitive 3 set match, only just losing out 13-11 in the championship tiebreak final set. Sam C and Callum were at second pair and put in a great display in their returning games, breaking serve a number of times throughout the two sets. Unfortunately, holding serve was a challenge, with the opponents breaking more than they did. Sam and Callum lost out in 2 sets, but played a great match.

Sam L and Joe were back on at first pair, feeling confident in their doubles ability after getting the win the previous day. They played a good couple of sets, eventually overcoming the Oxfordshire first pair 7-6 6-4, making them undefeated as a pair.

Day 3 vs Gloucestershire

Going into day 3, the team were aware that it was going to be a tough ask to stave off relegation from the division. H&W would need an 8-1 or 7-2 win against Gloucestershire to stay up.

Alfie Mills came in to play singles at no.6 spot, making his singles debut at 18U county cup. After a nervy start to the first set, Alfie managed to find his form towards the end of the set and managed to put himself a break up in the second set. A good performance from the Glos player, saw a break back in the second. The Glos player put in a strong second half of the second set to take it in the end. Alfie put in a great performance overall and can use his experience playing both singles and doubles into.

The rest of the day continued in similar fashion with some great performances from the H&W players. Notable mentions being Owen who managed to take his singles to a third set, Finlay

shennan who came in to play doubles and put in a fantastic and energy filled performance at third pair with Tom, Sam Cassidy who sealed a second singles win of the weekend and Joe and Sam L who narrowly lost out in a third set tie break in a well contested doubles match.

Each of the boys represented their county exceptionally well and put everything into the weekend on the court. Although the team ended up being relegated, there are so many positives to take away from their performances. As most probably the youngest team at the event, many of them will be able to learn and grow from this experience to take into next years county cup.

One of the most important aspects of county cup is the team camaraderie and social aspect of the event & whether it was at the tennis centre in the day or when out for food and doing activities in the evening, the boys all got on excellently well together and have undoubtedly made lots of fun memories.

The team will be back next year and on the hunt for promotion!

Mike Langston, 18U Captain

MEN'S SUMMER COUNTY CUP REPORT

This Summers County Cup the men's team ventured off to the recently transformed Southsea Tennis club. Unfortunately, the weather only allowed a couple of days play on the beautiful grass courts but we were lucky enough to have back up astroturf courts to ensure that all matches were played in the full format, being the only division across the whole country that managed to achieve this.

With depth in the team and the welcome reappearance of Oliver Nunn partnering Mike Lanston after a year off. On the first 3 days there were narrowly won ties each 5-4 with 9 straight wins from the stronger than ever Alex Parker and Alex Maggs and on his debut summer county cup Stuart Shannon partnering Billy Write clenched a couple of decisive wins against a very strong Avon, Wiltshire and Shropshire.

The remainder of the week was relatively smooth going losing just one match on each day to Cumbria and Oxfordshire however the nerves were heightened and the 2 Alex's inched closer and closer to their 1st 15 out of 15 wins, which they achieved to help secure a clean sheet winning the division and promoting Hereford and Worcestershire up to division 5 next year.

Well done to the entire team: Charlie Crisp (Captain) Alex Parker, Alex Maggs, Mike Langston, Oliver Nunn, Billy Write, Stuart Shannon, Joe Heart and George Southall.

Charlie Crisp, Captain

LADIES SUMMER COUNTY CUP REPORT 2023

This year's Ladies Summer County Cup event took place in West Worthing, and the squad (Katy Lewin, Sally Lewin, Paulina Jurkowska, Josie Ward, Imogen Sinclair, Beth Pye, Latesha Grant and me) was in high spirits and excited for the week ahead.

With rain stopping play early in the first fixture against the West of Scotland (the ultimate group winners) on Day 1, the format was shortened to Fast4 for most of the rest of the week, and we were moved from the grass courts to the indoor courts. Despite some close matches, the West of Scotland first pair (who won 14 out of their 15 matches across the week) proved to be too strong for all three of our pairs. With Latesha and Josie, and Imogen and I, securing fairly comfortable wins against the third pairs, Paulina and Katy pulled off a great three-set win over a strong Scottish second pair. Unfortunately, the other three rubbers didn't go our way – with the West of Scotland winning some frustratingly close matches, so the final result was a 6-3 loss.

On Day 2, we faced the North of Scotland, and the team was determined to bounce back after the previous day's tough result. We changed our pairings, with Josie and Paulina, Katy and I, and Beth and Imogen now teaming up. With the Fast4 format still in place, five of the nine rubbers ended up going to a deciding match tiebreak. With such close matches, we were thrilled to come away with a 7-2 win, playing solid doubles in the big moments to secure the win.

Going into Day 3, Berkshire had barely dropped a rubber, so we knew that it would be a tough ask for our team, but we were determined to perform well. Paulina and Josie pulled off a fantastic 10-8 win against the second pair, and beat the third pair comfortably, but, unfortunately, we were unable to pick up any other rubbers elsewhere. Imogen and Beth played well, just losing out 15-13 in the third set against the Berkshire 3s, and Sally and Katy battled hard to push the first pair to a tiebreak in their second set.

On Day 4, we faced South Wales – a fixture which we knew we needed to win to have the best chance of ensuring our place in the division for next summer. We all really stepped up our games, and were able to secure a 6-3 win, with Paulina and Josie winning 3 out of 3, Katy and I winning 2 out of 3 (just losing out 10-8 against the first pair), and Imogen and Beth edging their match tiebreak against the South Wales third pair. Some great tennis all round.

On the final day, thanks to our strong win the previous day, we were in the exciting position of having any of the three possible outcomes (promotion, staying in the division, or relegation) still on the cards. Having lost 6-3 to Dorset last year, we knew that we would have to play well to reverse the result – and so we did, with Paulina and Josie, Katy and I, and Latesha and Imogen all playing some strong doubles to clinch an 8-1(!) victory (special mention to Sally Lewin who stepped in to play with Katy in the final rubber against the Dorset number 1 pair, playing fantastically to secure a 4-1 4-1 win).

Having done all we could to challenge for promotion, we had a nervous wait as we all became honorary North of Scotland supporters for the afternoon in their clash with the West. Unfortunately, with the West of Scotland clinching a 10-8 match tiebreaker, we JUST missed out on promotion, but, all in all, a great result to finish in third place with such a young team.

I would like to thank all of the girls for their efforts throughout the week, and feel really excited to try to secure promotion again next summer! Thanks to Imogen Sinclair and Katy Lewin for their support as 'vice captains', and for ferrying the team around in their cars. Whilst we will certainly miss Paulina and Latesha (both out in the US on tennis scholarships) for the Winter event, I look forward to captaining the H&W team again in November.

Kate Horsburgh, Captain

MEN'S OVER 35S REPORT

This year the over men's over 35's team travelled with a 4 strong team of Charlie Crisp, Chris Warner, Paul Cowie and Henry Myatt. After 2 hard fought singles battles against a strong Avon team the overall tie was lost 4-1 with Charlie and Chris picking up a double rubber.

Unfortunately, as we settled in to our stride and confidence grew on the grass, the opposition got stronger and some well-established doubles players and grass court players deprived us from winning any more of the 10 rubbers played over the weekend. However, there were some hard-fought matches and due to multiple rain delays meant the matches were shortened to a fast 4 format a point here and there was the only difference on several occasions.

Well done to the whole team who battled hard and who's attitudes and on court manor served the county proud.

Charlie Crisp, Captain

LADIES OVER 35S REPORT

Team: Emma Bowen, Sarah McCormick, Katie Miles-Payne, Rachel Prudden, Jo Shepherd and Jilly Witcomb

This year presented us with a tough group with Kent, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire along with tricky weather conditions with lots of wind and rain.

Our first match was due to be on Saturday against Kent, however a day of rain postponed this match to Sunday. The format was reduced to short sets to 4 for all 5 matches. Jo Shepherd lost her singles on 2 tie breaks followed by a loss for Katie Miles-Payne in her singles against their number 1. The doubles matches were then played by Rachel Prudden and Jilly Witcomb and by Jo and Katie with Jo and Katie winning their match in the 3rd set tie-break. Overall loss of 4-1 and despite the short sets a late finish due to more rain delays.

Due to the weather both of the remaining matches had to be played on the final day so the format was reduced again to short sets and just the first round of 2 singles and 1 doubles. The first match was against Gloucestershire with Emma Bowen starting the singles followed by Katie with Katie narrowly losing out on the 3rd set tie-break. Rachel and Jilly then had an equally close doubles also narrowly losing out in the 3rd set tie-break. A 3-0 loss, however, 2 extremely close matches that very nearly went our way.

The final match was against Warwickshire who had beaten both Kent and Gloucestershire without the loss of any matches and we came to the same fate.

I would like to thank the players for displaying a fantastic team spirit despite the tough opposition and weather conditions.

Jo Shepherd, Captain

2023 CFS HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2023 CFS Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Championships took place at Manor Park, Malvern between 20th and 26th August 2023.

181 entries were received across 31 events with congratulations going to the following players:

Mens Singles

- 1 Stuart Shannon [3]
- 2 Billy Wright [4]

8U BS

- 1 Robin Whitewood
- 2 Buddy Stanbury

9U BS

- 1 Andrew Marlow [1]
- 2 Luca Mainini

10U BS

- 1 Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez [1]
- 2 Sam Richardson [2]

11U BS

- 1 Eshaan Nilak [1]
- 2 Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez [2]

12U BS

- 1 Eshaan Nilak [2]
- 2 Diego Hardie

14U BS

- 1 Harry Emmett [1]
- 2 Oliver Stevens [2]

16U BS

- 1 Harry Emmett [4]
- 2 Oliver Ruddick [3]

18U BS

- 1 Samuel Cassidy [2]
- 2 Sam Laidler [1]

Womens Singles

- 1 Kate Horsburgh [1]
- 2 Katy Lewin [3]

8U GS

- 1 Florence Northall
- 2 Jasmine Orgee

9U GS

- 1 Luna Lagomarsino [1]
- 2 Lottie Haines [2]

10U GS

- 1 Luna Lagomarsino
- 2 Summer Nicol [1]

11U GS

- 1 Ruby Taylor
- 2 Zoe Walsh [2]

12U GS

- 1 Mia Sztorc [1]
- 2 Fikayo Orebiyi

14U GS

- 1 Kiah Probert
- 2 Grace Hadley

16U GS

- 1 Kiah Probert
- 2 Maddie Walsh [1]

18U GS

- 1 Holly Stevens
- 2 Oliwia Sztorc [1]

Mens Doubles

- 1 Joe Hart [2]
Stuart Shannon
- 2 Samuel Rayner [4]
Matt Sime
- 10U BD
 - 1 Zander Archer [1]
Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez
 - 2 William Morris
Sam Richardson
- 11U BD
 - 1 Dara Guppy
Eshaan Nilak
 - 2 Benjamin Barker
Daniel Laugharne
- 12U BD
 - 1 Dhruv Dubey
Eshaan Nilak
 - 2 Jack Hartley-Dalley
Thomas Maidment
- 14U BD
 - 1 Harry Emmett [1]
Callum Hooper
 - 2 Ayrton Little [2]
Oliver Stevens
- 16U BD
 - 1 Alfie Mills [1]
Oliver Ruddick
 - 2 Jack Bulbulia
Theo Houston
- 18U BD
 - 1 Samuel Cassidy [1]
Sam Laidler
 - 2 Alfie Mills [2]
Oliver Ruddick

Womens Doubles

- 1 Katy Lewin [2]
Sally Lewin
- 2 Kate Horsburgh [1]
Imogen Sinclair
- 11U GD
 - 1 Bethany Hooper [1]
Zoe Walsh
 - 2 Summer Nicol [2]
Ruby Taylor
- 12U GD
 - 1 Leanna Rendell [1]
Mia Sztorc
 - 2 Freya Obrey
Zoe Walsh
- 14U GD
 - 1 Gina Obrey [1]
Maddie Walsh
 - 2 Sofie Glinos [2]
Kiah Probert
- 16U GD
 - 1 Marina Webb [1]
Daisy Williams
 - 2 Gina Obrey [2]
Maddie Walsh
- 18U GD
 - 1 Emma Mckay
Bethany Pye
 - 2 Marina Webb
Daisy Williams

9U XD

- 1 Andrew Marlow
Luna Lagomarsino
- 2 William Morris
Sam Richardson

18U XD

- 1 Owen Perry
Bethany Pye
- 2 Alfie Mills [3]
Maddie Walsh

HEAD HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUES

The Head Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Tennis Leagues ran during Winter 2022/23 and Summer 2023 with approximately 2,000 players playing for clubs throughout the county each season.

	<u>Clubs</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>
Ladies Winter 22/23	38	115	884
Men's Winter 22/23	41	129	1135
Mixed Winter 22/23	36	99	1015
Ladies Summer 2023	31	78	766
Men's Summer 2023	28	87	869
Mixed Summer 2023	31	87	943
West Summer 2023	12	43	329

Table 1: Breakdown of clubs, teams and players per county league.

Congratulations to all league winners, listed below:

Ladies Winter 22/23	Manor Park A
Men's Winter 22/23	Manor Park A
Mixed Winter 22/23	Worcester A

Ladies Summer 2023	Manor Park A
Men's Summer 2023	Stourbridge A
Mixed Summer 2023	Worcester A

Finally, thank you to Head for their sponsorship and all of the League Organisers who make each season happen. Particular thanks to Jan Thomas who is stepping down from the running of the Ladies Winter league after quite a few years!

INCLUSIVE TENNIS/OPEN COURT – REPORT H&W LTA AGM 2023

Introduction

Inclusive tennis continues to thrive and grow across H&W with 13 venues now actively involved with Open Court activity.

Highlights

- Commitment to continue VI tennis with the link to New College Worcester into 23/24
- Active working relationship with RNC Hereford to build VI tennis
- New working relationship with Headway in Worcester
- Successful delivery of the National ABI Games for 150 participants at Worcester University
- Successful delivery of LTA Regional LD tournament at Pershore TC
- New working relationship with the British heart Foundation in Worcester
- First work in care home setting with Mews Care Home in Droitwich
- New walking tennis groups at Cutnall Green & Hereford TC

Active Clubs/Venues

OPEN COURT VENUE LIST			
Date	Oct-23		
Venue	Club	Discipline	Numbers
Pershore	Pershore	Wheelchair	9
Pershore	Pershore	LD	25
Barnt Green	Barnt Green	Other	20
NCW	NCW	VI	38
Malvern	Manor Park	VI	6
Callow End	Lido Park	VI	4
RNC	Ross	VI	10
Droitwich	Droitwich TC	LD	12
Mews Care Home	Droitwich TC	Other	16
Cutnall Green	Cutnall Green	VI	1
Wildgoose Centre	Lido Park	LD	12
Monday Night Club	Lido Park	LD	25
			178
	Bromsgrove	Walking Tennis	6
	Droitwich Lido	Walking Tennis	43
	Worcester TC	Walking Tennis	12
	Boughton	Walking Tennis	18
	Kidderminster	Walking Tennis	10
	Ledbury	Walking Tennis	14
	Wolverley	Walking Tennis	6
	Cutnall Green	Walking Tennis	8
	Hereford	Walking Tennis	6
	Bewdley	Walking Tennis	19
			142

Active Registered Coaches

Tina Manning, Sarah McCormick, Neil Bates, Steve Bauer, James Griffiths, Paul Cowie, Tony Wright, Steve Barnett, Margaret Hughes.

Club Summary (Inclusive Tennis)

Malvern

- VI tennis levelled out at 6 players on a regular basis
- Several efforts to expand without success

Callow End

- VI sessions in village hall. All B1 players. Fantastic improvement from day 1 and now on a tournament pathway for competitions next year.

Pershore

- Downs Syndrome group going from strength to strength with players now on the competition pathway
- Wheelchair tennis doubled in size to nine players
- LTA official LD tournament a roaring success in April with two world number 1's in attendance

New College Worcester

- Excellent support of in school curriculum tennis
- After school club gone from strength to strength
- Support of three festival events at the school with large numbers
- Jane Price (Head of PE) committed to 23/24 school year with support from school budget.
- School awarded County LTA school of the year

RNC

- Steve Barnett ran sessions up to the end of the college term. Around 10 regular players each week. End of a five-year effort to get in here so fantastic result by Steve & his team.

Barnt Green Tennis Club

- Regular sessions taken place for a whole school term with New Ways School
- Specialist school for youngsters with learning challenges age 11-16
- All 20+ school members have participated several times
- Sessions promote good behaviour and discipline on the back of sport
- Club members have also visited the school for various events
- Two youngsters from the school volunteering to help the coach at the club.
- Very strong link going forward

Droitwich Lido Park

- 5-6 youngsters (aged 4-14) from underprivileged background involved in junior sessions.

- Scheme set up with local home educated group has expanded from 10 at the start of summer to near 30 now. Several of the youngsters have their own challenges (ADHD/Autism) requiring additional resource.
- New relationship with Westlands Community Centre with sessions now being delivered over there.
- New relationship with local Parkinsons Friendship Group established
- New relationship with “Wild Goose” daycare centre and the “Monday night Club” providing monthly tennis sessions to around 40 young adults with learning disabilities

Droitwich Tennis Club

- Relationship formed with Spectrum Day Care on the back of the Danny Sapsford Bright ideas programme. Sessions delivered every Monday until the end of the summer term to young adults with severe learning disabilities.
- Sessions now being delivered at the Mews Care Home to elderly patients, some with dementia.

Club Summary (Walking Tennis)

Bromsgrove

- Weekly sessions for 6+ players.
- Players actively participate in tournaments

Droitwich Lido

- Weekly sessions for 45+ players across three groups
- Players actively participate in tournaments
- New U3A group successfully running every Wednesday
- Holiday club support done at Westlands Community Centre

Worcester Tennis Club

- Weekly sessions for 12 players
- Players sometimes get involved in tournaments

Boughton Tennis Club

- Weekly sessions for 15+ regular players.
- Players actively participate in tournaments

Ledbury Tennis Club

- 10-14 Participants playing each week
- First player with ABI started in August following the ABI Games

Hereford Tennis Club

- Two taster courses completed and strong link established with local Parkinsons group and specialist neuro physio specialist. Regular 4-5 players each week but looking to expand.

Bewdley Tennis Club

- Active walking tennis section of nearly 20 players and for the first time their club tournament included walking tennis element

Kidderminster Tennis Club

- Tony started in July and now has two separate groups going at different times of the week. 8-10 players involved.

Cutnall Green Tennis Club

- New group started in July with immediate effect. 6-8 regular players including ex club members who had stopped playing the game as they got older.

On a more general note, there is a plan to have 3-4 walking tennis tournaments diarised in the next few weeks for 2024, hopefully culminating in a county championships to tie in with County Week during August.

Overall Summary

The growth of the Open Court programme in H&W during 2023 has been down to a fantastic effort by many clubs and dedicated individuals, who time and again have gone above and beyond to help those less fortunate than themselves get involved and play our sport.

In addition, behind the scenes support by both the County & National LTA has allowed sessions to be delivered to some who would have struggled, if not completely missed out on the opportunity to get involved in tennis. H&W is now firmly on the national map when it comes to Opening up our sport to as many different people as possible.

From my perspective, a huge thank you to clubs, coaches and especially those volunteers who through their amazing efforts have put a smile on someone's face who in many cases has never held a racket before!

Neil Bates
Open Court Lead



COUNTY SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE REPORT

Welcome everyone.

Once again there has been an increase in contacts from both regional LTA and from club safe guarding officers. Thankfully no serious incidents but awareness of guidance around safeguarding is getting through.

The issue of photo and video policies is a common reason for queries and problems; it needs to be clear and implemented properly- so when organising events or tournaments it should feature on the consent forms. The county has recently updated their policies including this one and ask for advice if you are uncertain.

Adrian Todd and I did a presentation in May for the club SOs. It covered various topics but importantly also informed club SOs of the new safeguarding templates that the LTA had been putting together. Clubs should be implementing these when updating websites or when having safeguarding support visits. In an ideal world websites should be reviewed regularly and I am hoping most clubs will have updated their policies by the New Year. I have updated the county policies which are now [on the website](#). The LTA are keen that low level concerns are reported in case there is a pattern and we have been following this guidance.

The county had its own safeguarding support visit in September 23. We were one of the last counties to be done and in fact there was a pressure of time as Regional SO Alyson O' Donnell was leaving. The preparation was a huge volume of work for myself and Adrian. We have not yet had the feedback as this includes a survey of clubs/volunteers/parents being sent out which is being included in the feedback, and at the time of writing this report the results were not available. I am aware of some necessary tweaking of our procedures and have already been made a start on this task. The code of conduct being one good example.

Please feel free to contact me for advice if you wish. My phone is 07939 027106 or email alituck@btinternet.com.

Many thanks to deputy CSO Adrian Todd on Adrian.Todd@outlook.com

Alison Tuck

H&W SENIOR LADIES CAPTAIN'S REPORT 2023

Ladies 40's: Captain - Jilly Witcomb

It was a tough run this Summer for the 40s ladies with some very strong opposition in Yorkshire, Bucks, Notts and East of Scotland, but the ladies played well and we left everything on the court.

First up was the long drive up to Leeds against Yorkshire. Number 1 singles were a battle with Jilly just losing out in a long 3 setter and Rachel had an equally tough match against a strong number 2. The doubles were well fought and Michelle and Caro went to 3 sets, Lisa and Michelle lost to number 1 pair and Rachel and Jilly were up 1 set and 3-0 when the opposition pulled out with injury. Very close but it wasn't our day. Bucks were next a week later again seeing 2 close singles and doubles and again Rach and Jilly were up 1 set in the doubles and the opposition pulled out with injury. So, two 1-3 losses.

After a long Summer of tennis our last 2 county matches were Notts away on the Saturday and E of Scotland home on the Sunday at the end of Sept, start of October. A thoroughly enjoyable Notts match saw another couple of fantastic matches in the singles and then equally strong doubles but we came out with a 0-4 but had a lovely tea after which was worth the wait!! East of Scotland on the Sunday was a match of two halves – starting with the doubles Rach and Jilly won a mammoth 7-6 7-6 and then were outplayed by 2 very strong Scottish singles players but not smashed! Ali and Lisa playing incredibly well had a really tight second match which was just taken away from them at the end.

It has been fantastic captaining and playing with a lovely team again this season and we look forward to making our mark in Div. 3 next year. Thank you to all the ladies who have played, Rachel Prudden, Lisa Davies, Michelle Collins, Caroline Forester-Smith, Ali Kirkwood and Caroline Badger.

Ladies 50's: Captain - Jo Skym



The ladies 50s ended the season with 1 win and 4 losses and are relegated from a tough division 1. The match against Warwickshire was the only success bringing a 4-1 victory.

A succession of injuries to Jo Shepherd meant she missed all of the season but thanks to Caroline Badger Liz Lewin Jan Mason Beverley Morris and Jo Skym who battled hard.

Ladies 55's: Captain - Sarah McCormick

Playing in Division 1 for the first time in this age group the team of Emma Bowen, Jackie Burton, Jan Mason and Sarah McCormick started the season with a strong 4-1 win at home to Lancashire.

Unfortunately, soon after the match Jackie injured her knee and was out for the rest of the season. Playing with a sub in each match the team continued their strong performance with a 4-1 win at home to Essex, this time Sandy Foulkes made up the 4th player on the team and partnering with Emma gained a valuable doubles win.

The team then followed that up with an away match in Canterbury against a very strong Kent team. Penny Smith joined the team but they were too strong and we lost 1-4, Jan and Sarah took one rubber with a win in doubles.

The final match of the season was away against Avon, Dee Smith joined the team and they finished off a successful season with a 4-1 win and a 2nd place finish.

Notable mentions to Jan Mason and Sarah McCormick who won 7/8 doubles matches and Emma Bowen who won 6/8.



The team are very thankful to their 'super subs' who stepped up and helped make their season a successful one.

Pictured: Jan Mason, Sarah McCormick (capt), Emma Bowen & Jackie Burton

Ladies 60's: Captain - Jan Thomas

It has been an enjoyable 2023 season with some great tennis. Covid and illness/injuries meant that we didn't always play the original team planned for all the fixtures so many thanks to those who stepped in to help out, sometimes at short notice.

Two match tiebreaks in the Gloucestershire match were crucial and sadly losing both meant we finished 5th instead of 4th in the division.

We had some very enjoyable and hard-fought matches, the scores not always reflecting the length of the games and the number of deuces! So, a big thank you to the team who always give of their best and have a great team spirit and entertaining banter.



Joan McGregor, Jan Williamson, Penny Smith & Jan Thomas
at Manor Park after the match versus Devon.

Ladies 65's: Captain - Dee Smith

The ladies 065s had a good season. We won div 2b and so will be promoted to div 1 next year.

The squad comprised:

Jenny Ellerton, Pauline Fisher, Jane Hampson, Sarah Snell and Dee Smith.

We'll be back to a singles and double format next year which will be very welcome to Pauline and Dee!

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT 2023

Growing the grassroots:

School Grants – introducing tennis to more children

The LTA Schools initiative carried through into this year and is available for primary and secondary schools to use. Schools are offered the chance of a £250 voucher for equipment or coaching if they complete a simple, free CPD online course. This has been a fantastic opportunity for clubs and coaches to build their relationship with their local schools. Since the initiative started 94 schools have taken up this opportunity in the county.

The initiative comes to an end at the end of this academic year, so we have the chance to do one final push in the schools that have yet to make the most of this offer. We will be circulating a list of those schools who have completed the voucher so that coaches can contact those that haven't done it, early in the new year.

We believe that the work coaches do with their local schools is critical in opening up tennis to more children in the community and driving participation. On the back of this work and Schools Games initiative, more children have the chance to try tennis and potentially link with their local club and coach.

Prime Video – Investment into driving the participation of girls in tennis

Prime Video LTA Youth Girls is a junior tennis coaching programme designed to inspire thousands of girls to pick up a racket and try tennis for the first time. It builds on the work done as part of She Rallies.

Funded by the reinvestment of Prime Video's US Open broadcast fees from Emma Raducanu's historic 2021 final - the programme focuses on creating an environment that motivates girls to enjoy and stay in tennis by giving them the chance to play with friends in a pressure free setting. Earlier this year the LTA delivered bespoke training to coaches to support their understanding of the social and environmental pressures on girls and how to introduce coaching that meets their psychological needs.

A number of coaches in H&W were involved in this initiative and successfully delivered 12 weeks of coaching to groups of girls of all ages. At Boughton Park Tennis Club, the take up from teenage girls was a big surprise and something we can build on in the county for the future.

The initiative continues into 2024 and hopefully more coaches will take up this opportunity.

Coach Education

LTA Youth Schools – Leadership Days

We hope to set up Youth Leader days for the county early next year, building on the idea and success of this LTA initiative last year where groups of teenagers from local schools attended the Young Leaders training course at Pershore. For the next sessions we'd encourage teenage players

from clubs to get involved which potentially encourages them to take their involvement in coaching further.

Coach Qualifications

This year there have been the following courses:

2 Assistant Courses - 20 candidates (24 last year)

1 Instructor Course - 12 candidates

No CPDs done this year vs 2 last year due to lack of interest.

Coach and club network

The LTA Coach Forum took place on 6 November 2023 with coaches taking part from H&W. This forum was delivered by the LTA with on court training and off court work with coaches. This was a great opportunity to network with each other and share ideas. The WhatsApp group continues to be used to offer coaches from across the county the chance to ask questions and request advice.

Tina Manning - Junior Development Chair

LTA NATIONAL & YOUTH LEAGUE REPORT

Data collected from Winter 22/23, Summer 2023, and Winter 23/24 (to date)

National Winter League 22-23	D1	D2-3	Total	Not played	National / Youth Winter League 23-24	D1	D2-3	Total	Not played
8&U	3	3	6		8&U	*	*	*	
9&U	3	5	8	1	9&U	4	6	10	
10&U	5	3	8	6	10&U	0	3	3	
11U B	2	3	5	1	11U B	4	0	4	
11U G					11U G				
12U B	3	2	5		12U B	5	4	9	
12U G					12U G				
14U B	3	6	9	1	14U B	4	0	4	
14U G					14U G	4	0	4	
16U B	3	2	5		16U B	5	0	5	
16U G					16U G	3	0	3	
18U B	3	3	6	1	18U B	4	0	4	
18U G					18U G				
MENS	3	0	3		MENS	3	0	3	
WOMENS					WOMENS				
Total Teams					Total Teams				
Minis 8u, 9u, 10u	11	11	22	7	Minis 8u, 9u, 10u	4*	9*	13*	
11-18yrs	14	16	30	3	11-18yrs	29	4	33	
Open	3	0	3	0	Open	3	0	3	
Total			56		Total			49*	

*8U starts 26th November – Will know the number of teams by 24th November.

National Summer League 23	D1	D2-3	Total	Not played
8&U	3	6	9	11
9&U	5	4	9	5
10&U	3	3	6	3
11U B	2	3	5	3
11U G				
12U B	0	4	4	1
12U G				
14U B	0	6	6	10
14U G	0	5	5	3
16U B	2	0	2	
16U G				
18U B	3	0	3	

18U G				
MENS	5	9	14	
WOMENS				
Total Teams				
Minis 8u, 9u, 10u	11	13	24	19
11-18yrs	7	18	25	17
Open	5	9	14	0
Total			63	

LTA National League Summer (Regional) - Tier 2 – 2023

H&W Men's Teams:

Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club – Finished 5th - Staying in Regional for 2024

Worcester Lawn Tennis Club – Finished 6th - Staying in Regional for 2024

LTA National League Summer (National) - Tier 1 – 2023

H&W Women's Teams:

Manor Park – Finished 7th – Moving down to Regional for 2024

Redditch Tennis Club – Finished 4th – Staying in National for 2024

Worldpay National Premier League (NPL) Tier 1 – Winter 2023/24

H&W Men's Teams:

Pershore Tennis Club – Midlands Division

Worldpay National Premier League (NPL) Tier 1 – Winter 2023/24

H&W Women's Teams:

Manor Park – Southwest Division

Redditch Tennis Club – Southeast North Division

Tony Ravenscroft

