

HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE TENNIS

2024 AGM Reports Pack

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TENNIS
FOR BRITAIN

8U COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 8U Boys and Girls County Team played teams representing Staffordshire, Shropshire and Gloucestershire at The Shrewsbury Club on Sunday 28th April 2024 in Group H of this year's County Cup event.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant: Harvey Ravenscroft

Girls Team: Ariana, Chloe, Poppie and Louisa

Boys Team: James, David, Ashwin and Rishi

Girls Event

Arrival:

The team arrived early and at 9:45am we have a good warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. Thank you to their parents for arriving promptly!

The matches got underway at 10:30am.

Round 1 v Staffordshire:

All the girls go on together and Harvey and I assist with the scoring of the matches. Our team is looking strong throughout and all our players are moving well chasing down balls. Poppie comes off first too strong for Elizabeth winning 10-1 she has a big smile on her face (which she keeps all day long!) After the first round of matches we are 3-1 up and looking great. In the second round of singles Ariana gets another win out rallying her opponent and winning 10-6. Lousia and Poppie are too experienced for their opposition and comfortably get over the line. Chloe has another close match and although playing some excellent tennis her opponent was just able to finish the match off 8-10. 6-2 up going into the doubles. Ariana and Chloe have a great game with Niamh and Chloe just getting through it 10-8. Lousia and Poppie keep their no-nonsense winning streak going winning 10-4.

Score: H&W Win 8-2

Round 2 v Gloucestershire

The H&W girls make short work of their first round of singles matches and the tie is quickly 4-0. In the second round the matches are marginally closer but we are off again fairly speedily as the girls are not hanging around. 8-0 after the singles matches and the girls are all smiles. Ariana and Chloe crush their opposition 10-0 with very consistent both back doubles and Lousia and Poppie are too good for the Gloucestershire girls and win 10-4. The girls are making this look too easy!

H&W Win 10-0

Round 3 v Shropshire

The girls are looking really confident going into their last matches. They are all just as energised as when they started. The girls race to a 4-0 lead after the first round of singles. Ariana plays a great match moving Phoebe side to side winning 10-4. Chloe looks great beating Xanthe 10-6 and Lousia and Poppie again get comfortable wins. After the second round we are 7-1 up. Ariana and Chole team up well again in the doubles and are really strong at attacking the net player and get another brilliant win 10-4. Lousia and Poppie are too consistent and communicating well see out the last match 10-2.

Score: H&W Wins 9-1

In short:

- 1st Place – Winners!
- High level of commitment from the players. The effort and performance from the girls was great all day.
- Brilliant team spirit from both parents and players!
- 100% of doubles matches won!
- Well done everyone!

Boys Event:

Arrival:

The team arrived early and at 1:30pm we have a good warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. Thank you to their parents for arriving early (some very early!)

The matches got underway at 2:30pm.

Round 1 v Staffordshire:

All the boys go on together and just like the girls event Harvey and I assist with the scoring of the matches. The first round for singles matches were all very competitive. James loses to Ben 9-11 after quite a few questionable queries from the Staffordshire player. David beats Luke using good power to rush his opponent. Ashwin gets over the line 10-8 against Arlo but Rishi loses 7-10 to Albie. 2-2 after the first round of singles. David loses out 8-10 to Ben in a great match. David was 7-2 down and fought really hard to get back into the match but just lost out. James comfortably beat Luke 10-0; Rishi beats Arlo on Ashwin loses to Albie. 4-4 after the singles. The Staffordshire seem to have 2 stronger players Ben and Albie who have won both their singles. Thinking about playing on the weaker players the H&W team go on for their doubles. James and David face a match point but fight through brilliantly to win 12-10. Unfortunately, Rishi and Ashwin lose out 7-10 with a couple of unforced errors being the difference in the match.

Score: Draw 5-5

Round 2 v Gloucestershire

The boys play Gloucestershire and go 3-1 down after the first round of singles matches. David gets a win but James, Ashwin and Rishi lose. Ashwin couldn't quite get over the line on his 2 match points and lost 9-11 and Rishi made a couple of uncharacteristic unforced errors to lose to Jakob 7-10. James's opponent Ben was very good at defending and the cleaning up on the easy balls. The next round of singles are crucial! H&W do amazingly well to win this round 3-1! David loses out to Ben and James beats Flynn but Rishi and Ashwin really step it up! Ashwin was behind in his match against Jakob and uses his awesome speed to hustle and chase and fight to win 12-10 and Rishi stays calm and mentally strong to find a way over the line against Joshua to win 12-10! 4-4 going into the doubles! James and David win comfortably 10-3 by hitting to the weaker player and attacking the net player but Ashwin and Rishi are embroiled in another battle. The boys keep it together and although there were one or two avoidable errors (like volleying the serve) they see out the match 14-12! An epic match!

H&W Win 6-4

Round 3 v Shropshire

One of the Shropshire boys was feeling unwell and went home so one of the Shopshire girls who competed earlier stood in – although the matches would be marked as a walkover the boys did not know this and went out to fight hard for every match knowing that the number of matches won might be the difference between winning and losing the day. James plays his best match of the day beating Oliver 10-3 playing positive attacking tennis. David and Ashwin win well although David got confused on the score which did distract his concentration. Rishi was 8-4 up but lost out 8-10 to Harry who chased every ball down. It's been a long day and Rishi looks like its catching up with him. 3-1 after the first round. James and Ashwin win well. David is in a battle with Oliver but hitting side to side well comes away winning 12-10. 7-1 up after the singles. James and David play solid tennis from both back and beat Charlie and Oliver 10-6. Ashwin and Rishi also get another win.

Score: H&W Wins 9-1

In short:

- 1st Place – Winners!
- Really close competition with great battles won!
- Brilliant team spirt from both parents and players! Thank you parents!
- Only one doubles match lost!
- Great opportunity to learn from the wins and losses from the day.

Well done everyone!

Thank you Harvey for your help on the day!

Chris Marlow, Captain

9U COUNTY CUP REPORT

9U Girls

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Girls County Team played Cheshire, North Wales and Derbyshire at Wrexham Tennis Centre on Saturday 23rd March 2024 at the annual County Cup.

Captain: Matt Tully

Assistant: Harvey Ravenscroft

Girls Team: Jemima, Eleanor, Jasmine and Eva Mae.

Arrival:

The team arrived at 9:30am in good time to have a good warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. Thank you to their parents as it was a long drive from our county!

After a briefing by the referee the matches got underway at 10am.

Round 1 v North Wales:

Eva Mae and Jasmine started off the 9&U campaign at number 4 and 3 singles. Eva Mae played some good tennis keeping the ball in off her forehand side well and was trying to move her opponent to force the error. Jasmine chased and battled against a hard hitting opponent and proved too consistent for her opponent. Eva Mae lost 4-2 and Jasmine won 4-1. Next up was Eleanor and Jemima. Both showed really good energy on court and battled well against their opponents but Eleanor lost 3 extremely close games on sudden death deuce to lose 4-2 and Jemima faced an opponent who didn't give her many mistakes and lost 4-2.

Eva Mae and Eleanor teamed up in doubles and worked well together covering the middle playing both back to make it tricky for their opponents but lost 4-2. Jasmine and Jemima had an excellent match with all 4 girls on the court hitting the ball with great speed back and forth. The girls lost this one 4-2 despite some super close games.

Score: H&W Lose 5-1

Round 2 v Derbyshire

Eva Mae and Jasmine were determined to get a good result this time and both girls battled hard and looked like they were really enjoying their tennis. Eva Mae got off to a bad start going 3-0 down but made an amazing comeback winning her next two games playing some brilliant tennis before losing the final game to lose 4-2. Jasmine again produced some excellent short shots to draw her opponent in before then playing deep knocking her off balance. Some great tactics by Jasmine meant she won 4-1. Jemima played against an extremely good opponent at number 1 who's serve was really powerful. Jemima can be proud of her attitude in this one and failed to give up and stayed positive throughout despite losing 4-0. Eleanor faced a big hitter and really dug in holding her own corner and playing some of the best tennis that I've seen her play. It really was



impressive watching Eleanor battle away but unfortunately her opponent was really strong and won 4-1.

Doubles followed a similar pattern and despite both pairs raising their games they both couldn't get the win.

Score: H&W Lose 5-1

Round 3 v Cheshire

Cheshire had already won both of their other matches quite comfortably so the girls knew it would be another tough match. However, this didn't put the girls off and all of them battled well and enjoyed the fact they were in a team playing tennis together. Eva Mae and Jasmine lost 4-1 and 4-1 respectively and Eleanor and Jemima both lost 4-1. The girls lost graciously and again showed that they deserved to be there and represented the county well. Doubles was similar and cheshire were well drilled being solid at the net and not missing much from the baseline.

Score: H&W Loss 6-0

In short:

- 4th Place
- Lots of lessons learned on attacking with consistency and winning the big points.
- Great team spirit from both parents and players.
- Some good performances throughout and were missing two other players who couldn't make it today.

Well done everyone!

9U Boys

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Boys County Team played Cheshire, North Wales, Isle of Man and Derbyshire at Wrexham Tennis Centre on Sunday 24th March 2024 at the annual county cup.

Captain: Matt Tully

Assistant: Harvey Ravenscroft

Boys Team: Robin, Hugo, Buddy and David.

Arrival:

The team arrived at 9:30am in good time to have a good warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. Thank you to their parents as it was a long drive from our county!

After a briefing by the referee the matches got underway at 10am.

Round 1 v North Wales:

David playing 1 age group up got off to a flying start using his attacking forehand to win 4-0 at number 4. Buddy played with good consistency, and was locked in a really close match which he lost 4-3 in the end after playing a close tiebreak. Next Hugo played using his big serve and forehand to win points but his opponent kept the ball in too often and he lost 4-2. Robin came on last and played some brilliant aggressive tennis, often searching for angles to force his opponent to make it errors. It was a really close match and went back and forward before Robin managed to secure the win in a tiebreak to make it 2-2 between the teams. Robin and David then teamed up in doubles but faced a strong pair who got the better of them winning 4-0 but Buddy and Hugo overturned their singles losses to make a doubles win 4-1 to make it 3-3 and force a shootout!

Robin and Hugo teamed up in the shootout which was a tiebreak to 10 and managed to win quite comfortably in the end 10-6. The boys got off to a great start with a really tight win 4-3 to H&W!

Score: H&W Win 4-3

Round 2 v Derbyshire

Both David and Hugo wasted no time jumping on their successes from the previous match beating Derbyshire's 3 and 4, 4-2 and 4-0 with really impressive performances striking forehands from the baseline into the spaces in the court. Hugo's match was closer and this time he managed to win the tiebreak setting up H&W up with a 3-0 lead before Robin extended that by exploiting his opponents' weaknesses to win his match 4-0 quite comfortably.

This time for doubles, Robin paired up with Buddy and they played some good tennis together with confidence when volleying at the net winning 4-1 and then Hugo and David secured the 6-0 victory with a 4-0 win in their doubles.

Score: H&W Win 6-0

Round 3 v Isle of Man

David grabbed himself another 4-0 win in his singles before Buddy and Hugo started to play some of their best tennis beating Isle of Man's 3 and 2 players with the scoreline of 4-2. Robin had a tricky match at number 1 and perhaps didn't attack as much as what he could have in his match causing him to lost 4-1. Over to doubles and David and Buddy secured the win this time at number 2 doubles 4-2. Hugo and Robin had a tight match which went to a tiebreak but unfortunately, they came out the wrong end of it losing 4-3. But yet again another good win for H&W.

Score: H&W Win 4-2

Round 4 v Cheshire

The last match of the day was the showdown match as both counties had won all of their previous ties and therefore the winner would go through to the national finals. Cheshire were strong and the boys would have to play some of their best tennis to win these matches. David, Buddy and

Hugo were first up. David and Hugo's opponents were on form and produced some impressive displays barely missing to set Cheshire 2-0 up. Buddy got off to a great start 3-0 up before his opponent slowly got himself back into it and grabbed a tiebreak win. Robin had a super close match at number 1 and again Robin got himself slightly up in the match but Cheshire were resilient and hung in there. It went to a tiebreak and all eyes were on court number 1 with both players playing some truly fantastic tennis with big forehands, backhands, big serving, volleying and smashing on display both players got themselves around the court with speed chasing after each other's shots. Cheshire won the tiebreak meaning they put themselves 4-0 up, a lead which couldn't be chased. Despite that the boys went on and played some fantastic doubles with Robin and Buddy producing some of the best tennis of the day to get a tight win in the tiebreak to win 4-3. David and Hugo couldn't match Cheshire this time and lost 4-0.

Score: H&W Loss 5-1

In short:

- 2nd Place
- Lots of lessons learned on mentality, body language and being resilient.
- Great team spirit from both parents and players.
- Some good performances throughout and were missing another player who couldn't make it today.

Well done everyone!

Matt Tully

10U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire Boys County Team played Cheshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire at Hoole Lawn Tennis Club on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May 2024 at the annual County Cup.

Captain: Matt Tully

Boys Team: Andrew, Sam, Luca, Seb, William and Harry

Arrival:

The team arrived at 9:45am in good time to have a good warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. Thank you to their parents as it was a long drive from our county! After a briefing by the referee the matches got underway at 11am.

Round 1 v Cheshire:

Harry and Luca started the county cup with fixtures at 4 and 3 singles. Harry started brightly against a consistent opponent. Their points went on with many rallies over 10 shots going back and forth on the clay courts. Harry lost the first set 4-2 but kept on fighting forcing the second set to a tiebreak but he just couldn't quite get through this one despite some impressive attacking returns and excellent defence in both corners. Luca faced a more attacking opponent who pinned him back deep on most points. Luca tried to find his attacking forehand as much as possible but couldn't quite find his timing to capitalise on the games being close losing 4-1 4-1. Next up was Andrew at 1 and Sam at 2. They faced two more impressive highly ranked opponents. Andrew's opponent seemed to be able to attack off everything and didn't miss making it an extremely tricky match. Andrew tried to hit deeper but his opponent kept moving Andrew to win the match. Sam chased and chased the ball down, his opponent hit spin to both sides with ease and didn't seem to miss. Sam did so well retrieving the ball and was out of breath for most of the match but continued showing great fight despite losing.

Andrew and Luca teamed up in doubles, showing some good volleying skills following some of our patterns that we worked on in training and remembering some of our rules of H&W doubles. They narrowly missed out losing 4-3 4-3 in two close sets. Seb and Will teamed up at number 2 doubles. They played aggressively, smart at time playing into the right areas of the court and managed to get H&W's first win of the day 4-2 4-3. Well done boys. The Cheshire team was strong and something that we need to work towards closing the gap through continued practice.

Score: Cheshire win 5-1

Round 2 v Yorkshire

Seb and Will played singles and both fought really hard but lost 4-0 4-1 against their opponents. The Yorkshire boys were effective at creating spaces in the court against our players to open up the court and finish the point. Andrew and Sam played at 1 and 2 and faced similar battles against GB players who were relentless in their intensity, speed around the court and power.

After the singles it was time for doubles where William and Sam teamed up and Luca and Harry teamed up. These matches were closer and our tactics worked but both pairs couldn't seem to win those big points on the day. Luca and Harry forced a tiebreak in the second set but Yorkshire came through 9-7 in a really close battle. Some really good performances from the boys but Yorkshire were too strong in this one. We did spend some time learning and analysing after the match what are things that they do in their game that we could improve and bring on and learned some important lessons to take forward for future events.

After the match it was time for the boys to go and enjoy themselves off court and fortunately the hotel had a swimming pool which they loved playing with each other before grabbing some food and preparing for the next day.

Score: Yorkshire Win 6-0

Round 3 v Derbyshire

Day 2 and the boys arrived early to warm up. Seb and Will were first up and came out aggressively knowing they wanted to win this one. Will used his attacking serves and forehands to hit through his opponent winning 4-1 4-0. Seb faced some close games in the first set with most of them going to sudden death deuce but he focused and won the first set 4-2 before loosening off in the second to play more attacking winning 4-1. Andrew and Sam were next and both boys didn't waste any time on court with Andrew winning 4-0 4-0 and Sam winning 4-1 4-0. Really good from the boys in these singles finding some great tennis.

Doubles was next with Harry and Seb playing at number 2 winning 4-0 4-1 and Andrew and Luca playing at number 1 also winning 4-0 4-1. The boys gelled together well and started to really develop confidence playing some really great doubles.

Score: H&W Win 6-0

In short:

- 3rd Place
- Faced 2 really good sides, but kept fighting forcing some of the matches to be close.
- Great team spirit from both parents and players, we looked like we had the most fun there.
- The boys were keen to learn and learned a lot from watching and playing against some of the best players in the country.

Well done everyone!

Matt Tully, 10U Boys County Captain

10U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 10U Girls County Team played teams representing Gloucestershire, Cheshire and Derbyshire at The Manor Park Club, Malvern on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May 2024 in Group D of this year's County Cup event.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Luna, Evelina, Georgia, Florence and Iona

Day 1 Arrival:

The team arrive on a beautiful sunny morning at 8:45am to warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. The matches get underway at 10:00am after the referees briefing.

Singles v Cheshire:

Georgia and Florence go on to face their opponents. The Cheshire team look very strong and both girls find the matches difficult. The consistency and quality of the Cheshire girls gets them off to a winning start. Evelina tries hard but also struggles to deal with Maisie's power and accuracy. There are some excellent points, but Evelina loses 0-4 0-4. Luna finds Eva's forehand difficult to deal with as she hits with excellent pace and angles. The Cheshire player takes the first set 0-4. Composing herself at the end of the set, Luna battles hard and gets a game point, the first bit of pressure Eva has felt. Luna wins the game from a missed forehand and the Cheshire player immediately breaks down into tears. Luna keeps calm as Eva, losing her composure, makes numerous unforced errors and Luna takes the set 4-1. The reset of the set ending and Eva regains some of her focus, although looks like she could lose it again as the match tie-break starts off close. A couple of big winners including a good drive volley gives the Cheshire player confidence and unfortunately Luna's defence was broken. Eva won the tie-break 5-10.

Score: H&W 4-0 down after the singles

Singles v Gloucestershire

Trying to put the last matches behind them the girls now play singles against Gloucestershire who also have some very good players. Florence again tries her best, but Bianca wins comfortably. Georgia is in closer match against Lottie, the Glos no. 3. At 2-3 down and 30-30 needing only 2 points to force the tiebreak the Gloucestershire player plays good match-play tennis, not overhitting but making Georgia move and gets the errors to take the set 2-4. Georgia tries hard in the second set but a couple of missed attacking short balls and some great consistency from Lottie get her over the line 1-4. Evelina is hitting some really attacking shots but a few too many unwelcome double faults and quality play from her opponent mean the match quickly goes the way of the Gloucestershire player. Luna is playing a solid match against Grace. Trying to make sure of the win, Luna plays tactically defensive and manages to keep chasing the ball down and frustrates her opponent. Luna does well to win 4-2 4-1.

H&W 3-1 down after the singles.

Doubles v Cheshire

Having struggled in the singles to get games the team go on to compete for the doubles when the rain comes. We have about an hour and half delay and play recommences on the indoor courts. Florence and Georgia put in a really good fight against good opposition and using both back to frustrate their opponents they do well make the match competitive. Maybe a little more clinical when given balls to attack and we could have forced an upset. The H&W girls lose out 2-4 2-4. Luna and Evelina face Eva and Gwynne who both have fantastic volleys. Although the H&W girls do well to attack the net player and play some excellent doubles Eva and Gwynne were just too strong and win 1-4 2-4.

Score: H&W Lose 6-0

Doubles v Gloucestershire

With the match at 3-1 to Gloucestershire the doubles is still live. We are now outside again as the sun has come out but on the artificial clay courts as the acrylic courts were still too wet. Georgia and Florence on and lose 0-4 0-4 to Lottie and Blanka. Although its and comfortable win for the Gloucestershire girls the H&W girls take it in good spirits with a lot of loud 'mine' and 'yours' being called. Luna and Evelina play some great both back tennis as well as mixing in Luna starting forwards. They hit lots of attacks at the net players and win 4-1 4-1.

Score: H&W Lose 4-2

Day 2 Arrival:

The team arrive on another beautiful sunny morning at 8:45am, but today there is no chance of rain! The girls warm up and get ready to play.

Matches start at 9:30am although the message clearly didn't get to the Derbyshire team who arrive a bit flustered at 9:30 thinking the matches started at 10:00.

Singles v Derbyshire:

Iona and Georgia go on and have close competitive matches. Iona plays Tahlia and makes it awkward for her with a combination of deep and short shots. Tahlia just gets through the first set 2-4. Iona does well to compete hard but fairly, and in a rare moment, when asked, 'are you sure' on a line call, she says 'not really' and concedes the point. Unfortunately, Iona loses the match in the second set in a tie-break. Georgia gets her first set to a tie-break. She is battling hard against Jessica who can hit some outstanding forehand winners but misses quite a few as well. A couple of unforced errors in the tie-break from Georgia and then a string of good shots from Jessica are enough for her to take the set and then the match 3-4(3) 2-4. Evelina takes on Lettie who is another good player. The tennis starts off at a blistering pace with both girls hitting some lovely outright winners. As the set progresses both girls start regularly double faulting and service games get harder to hold. Lettie takes the first set on a tie-break and then gets into her stride. Evelina tries to defend but Lettie is too confident and takes the second set 0-4. Luna plays Tiffinay who is super-fast and seemingly able to get so many balls back. Luna plays an attacking game but the errors creep in and Tiffinay wins 1-4 0-4.

Score: H&W 4-0 down after the singles

Doubles v Derbyshire

Only the doubles to play to try and get something from the tie. Iona and Georgia face Tiffany and her partner. After Tiffany's win against Luna she is clearly feeling good and the H&W girls struggle to keep it away from her and hit it to her weaker player in the Derbyshire pairing. 0-4 0-4 to Derbyshire in a slightly flat match. Luna and Evelina are involved in a closer match but still the energy seems to have gone after a long weekend. Some miscommunications between the H&W pairing gift the Gloucestershire team points which in this close match needs to be worked on. The match is up and down but after losing the first set 2-4 the H&W girls have opportunities at 3-2 up but seeming a bit out of sorts the match is lost and the Derbyshire pair make it a clean sweep.

H&W lose 6-0.

In short:

- 4th Place
- Well done Cheshire – 1st Place
- The players tried hard against quality opposition who in many instances were vastly more experienced.
- Lots to be taken away from the opportunity of playing good opposition.
- Great support from parents.

Well done everyone!

Thank you Katy for your help over the weekend!

Chris Marlow

11U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 11U Girls County Team played teams representing Cambridgeshire, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire and West of Scotland at The Manor Park Club, Malvern on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June 2024 in Group 1B of this year's County Cup event.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Ruby, Allegra, Summe, Lizzie and Luna

Day 1 Arrival:

The team arrive on a wet drizzly morning at 8:45am to warm up, hit some balls and prepare for their matches. As the acrylic courts are wet and the forecast is for more rain it is certain there will be delays today!

After clearing the courts twice and trying to stay ready to play the matches finally get underway in the indoor centre at 12:30pm.

Singles v Nottinghamshire:

Summer and Luna are on first. Luna plays a solid game with few unforced errors against Roksana and wins comfortably 4-0 4-1. Summer starts aggressive and takes the first set 4-0. A couple of missed balls early in the second set and Summer starts to play with less conviction in her attacking game and Imogen picks up her level and wins the second set 0-4. After the reset of the second set Summer starts the match tie-break well with more composed positive tennis. Summer leads 7-1 in the tie break and looks comfortable but the Nottinghamshire player fights back to 7-6. Summer takes it point by point and just sees out the match 10-7 in a match that could have gone either way. Allegra plays with conviction and going for her shots wins 4-2 4-2. Ruby plays well against Sofia who is able defend and attack well and although Ruby fights hard she loses out 2-4 2-4.

Score: H&W 3-1 up after the singles

Singles v Cambridgeshire

After more waiting around the Luna goes on to play her singles on the Astroturf and Summer plays on the acrylic. The referee is doing his best to catch up with matches and get them on where he can. Luna finds Lillians pace on the damp Astro difficult to deal with as the balls come through fast. The only way to compete in this match is to go for her shots. After losing the first set 0-4 Luna does well to go for her serves and play more of the match on the front foot. Luna loses the second set 2-4 in a much more competitive set. Summer has a really close battle with Anamaya. In a match of good quality that could have gone either way Summer just loses out 3-4(5) 2-4. Allegra plays Megan who has a strong all court game. Allegra tries hard and even hitting with power on the Astroturf, Megan seems to be able to retrieve everything and then find the space well. Ruby and Anaya have a great match. Ruby feels out of it in the first set and loses 1-4 but increasing her



aggression she takes the second 4-3(5). Fighting to the end Ruby loses out 5-10 in the match tie-break.

H&W 4-0 down after the singles.

Doubles v Nottinghamshire

Allegra and Lizzie go on to play the doubles that will win us the tie over Nottinghamshire. The girls play good attacking tennis with balls being hit hard down the line making the net players defend. A couple of unforced errors from the Nottinghamshire pair and Allegra and Lizzie win the match 4-2 4-2. Summer and Ruby go on for their match just before 7pm. Although the singles matches had been close, Ruby and Summer looked confident in their doubles play against Sofia and Imogen. With some great cross court consistency and solid volleys (although the girls could be closer to the net!) the H&W girls were too strong and win 4-0 4-2.

Score: H&W Win 5-1

Doubles v Cambridgeshire

Luna and Lizzie go on to play Cambridgeshire at around 7pm while Ruby and Summer are playing doubles against Nottinghamshire. The girls find the match tough and although there are some good points played but the Cambridgeshire pair were too strong and take the match 0-4 0-4. As the tie is already 5-0 to Cambridgeshire and it is now past 8pm the decision is made not to play the last doubles. It has been a very long day.

Score: H&W Lose 5-0

Day 2 Arrival:

The team arrive on a lovely sunny morning at 8:15am – it's looking like today there is no chance of rain! The girls warm up and get ready to play. H&W came second in their group and now play-off against Lancashire who just lost out to Yorkshire in a shootout in the other group. Matches start at 9:00am.

Singles v Lancashire:

Luna and Summer go on first. Luna is looking very comfortable against Jia who, although a very nice player, finds Lunas drop shot lob combination very difficult to deal with. Luna mixes the depth well and wins 4-0 4-1. Summer goes on against Chloe who plays an incredible match. Summer fights and stays calm but Chloe seems to be hitting winners from anywhere on the court including her serve. Allegra comes on and faces Esha. Allegra is performing at her top level, not only attacking well but really working hard on her retrieving. Although Esha takes the match 3-4(3) 2-4 it was a gutsy effort from Allegra. Ruby tries her best loses out to Vannesa 1-4 0-4.

Score: H&W 3-1 down after the singles

Doubles v Lancashire

The match is still live at 3-1 down and we know the girls can play great doubles. Allegra and Luna really push Chloe and Amarachi close. The H&W pair keep getting to ball back and the Lancashire pair who dominate so many rallies start missing a few. Luna and Allegra do well to take the first set to a tie-break and even better a 5-2 lead! Unfortunately, an H&W double fault, a couple of big serves from Chloe and the tie-break gets close! The Cambridgeshire pair take the set 6-8. The second set was also tight. The H&W pair battle but Chloe and Amarachi see out the match 2-4. Last match of the weekend Ruby and Summer go on. Although there is nothing to lose in the match the girls seem uptight and not gelling. The H&W pair lose the first set 2-4. Working better on their teamwork and helping each other the girls start to gain some momentum. As the belief gets stronger the girls play some great doubles with fantastic reaction volleys and attacking baseline play. H&W win the second set 4-1 and stay strong in the match tie-break to win 10-7.

H&W lose 4-2.

In short:

- 4th place out of 6
- Well done Cambridgeshire – 1st Place
- The players fought hard against a lot of quality opposition who in many instances had much higher rankings.
- We play, we learn, we move forwards!

Well done everyone!

Thank you Katy for your help over the weekend!

Chris Marlow

11U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The boys were busy competing in the 11&U County Cup in Division 2C this weekend. The boys were grouped up with Derbyshire and Oxfordshire with the other counties in the other group being Channel Islands, Staffordshire and Shropshire.

The boys team led by Captain Matt Tully and Assistant Josh Price consisted of Andrew, Ben, Luca, Ruben and Zander.

After a good warm up the boys were excited to get started with 3 and 4 going first against Oxfordshire. Ben started at 4 in a bit of an epic match which went right down to the wire. After winning the 1st set 4-3 with some excellent tennis, Ben couldn't quite convert in the second set losing 4-0 meaning a 3rd set would decide the outcome of the match. Both players went up and down in the tiebreak and it was really close. Ben had a chance at 10-9 up but his opponent won the next 3 points taking the match 12-10 in the 3rd. Andrew at 3 played some aggressive tennis, never backing down and trying to consistently take the ball at the top of the bounce, attacking the second serve and going after his serves. His opponent dug down deep and was able to stay consistent and defend well against his attacks getting the 4-3 4-2 win against Andrew. Zander battled well at number 2 against an attacking player who played with lots of power but lost 4-2 4-1. Ruben came out firing and got H&W's first win to keep hopes alive in the doubles winning 4-0 4-1 at number 1 singles.

The manor park duo of Luca and Andrew teamed up for doubles and Zander and Ruben teamed up at number 1. Luca was struggling with an injury to his shoulder so had to adapt when playing to using a slice on his backhand and adapting his ball toss on his serve. Luca and Andrew played brilliantly, they worked really well as a pair and volleyed really well at the net converting lots of clinical volleys getting the 4-3 4-2 win. Zander and Archer started really well in their doubles winning the first set 4-1 serving and returning well but their opponents found a way back in winning a tight second set 4-3 and then an extremely close championship tiebreak 10-8 to finish off the tie.

Result: 4-2 Loss vs Oxfordshire

Next up the next day was Derbyshire who had beaten Oxfordshire yesterday. This time H&W got off to an excellent start with Luca picking up a 4-1 4-0 win before Andrew took to court and picked up a 4-2 4-2 win. Zander really battled away against a strong number 2 but only just lost out after nearly finishing the match in straight sets but his opponent fought back and produced a strong 3rd set winning 10-2. Ruben faced a tough first set 4-0 but came back in the second nearly converting but falling short in the tiebreak losing 4-0 4-3.

H&W knew that a 4-2 win would probably top the group but anything else would mean that they would finish in 3rd in their group so both doubles points were needed. Andrew teamed up with Ruben whilst Zander and Luca teamed up. Andrew and Ruben had a really tight match but lost out in another 2 tiebreaks 4-3 4-3. Zander and Luca fell short 4-2 4-2. It was always in the balance and the day was very back and forth and all players did themselves proud but couldn't convert on those big points and tiebreaks to get the wins.

Result: 4-2 Loss vs Derbyshire

Unfortunately, the Channel Islands had to go home early as they had a plane to catch and so we couldn't play that match against them. Therefore, it was a 5th place finish for the boys.

Boys 11&U County Cup Standings

1. Derbyshire
2. Shropshire
3. Oxfordshire
4. Staffordshire
5. Herefordshire & Worcestershire
6. Channel Islands

Take homes for the team:

1. Great effort and team spirit for the weekend.
2. Can we take our opportunities more on big point, tiebreaks and close games. We only won 1 out of 11 tiebreaks over the weekend.
3. Can we ensure we have the right positioning in doubles and we are positive at the net.

Thank you to all the players and parents who came along to Stourbridge this weekend, it was a really enjoyable weekend and the boys all did a great job and were a credit to the county.

Captain: Matt Tully

Assistant: Josh Price

12U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The Herefordshire & Worcestershire 12U Girls County Team took on teams from Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Derbyshire, and Shropshire in Group 2B of this year's County Cup event, held at The Manor Park Club, Malvern, on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September 2024.

Captain: Chris Marlow

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

Team: Allegra Iovanel, Beth Hopper, Summer Nicol, Ruby Taylor, and Ellie Ballard

Day 1 Arrival

The team arrived bright and ready for action at 11:30, as Staffordshire faced Leicestershire first in our group. The girls got in some warm-up hits under sunny skies – ideal tennis weather.

Match 1: H&W vs. Staffordshire

Ruby and Summer kicked things off. Ruby was on fire, taking a commanding 4-0, 4-1 win against Angelina. Summer showcased her solid game, winning the first set 4-1. Her opponent fought hard to force a second-set tiebreak, but Summer stayed laser-focused, closing it out 7-1 in style. Beth followed with a gritty match, showing fantastic power on serve to secure a 4-3(4), 4-2 victory. Allegra battled against Sonya's fast-paced game, losing a tight first set 1-4. But she bounced back in the second set, pushing it to a tiebreak where both girls fought for every point. Allegra showed real heart but lost the tiebreak 8-10.

Score after singles: H&W 3-1 up

Beth and Ruby paired up for doubles, executing a smart strategy to target the weaker player and winning comfortably 4-0, 4-2, despite getting a bit too relaxed in the second set. Allegra and Summer faced a tough battle in their match, with both sides hitting powerfully. Staffordshire edged them out in a very close contest, 3-4(4), 3-4(6).

Final Score: H&W win 4-2

Match 2: H&W vs. Leicestershire

Ruby took the court first against Iris, playing confidently to win 4-3(3), 4-0. Summer put up a great effort but couldn't overcome Deayenna's strong groundstrokes, losing 1-4, 1-4. Beth had a tight match with Amy, taking the first set 4-1, but Amy's aggressive play won her the second set 4-7 in a tiebreak, and she carried that momentum into the match tiebreak, winning 5-10. Allegra faced Abigail, whose scrappy style forced Allegra to fight for every point. After losing the first set 2-4, Allegra dug deep to win the second 4-2, only to fall just short in the match tiebreak, 10-12.

Score after singles: H&W 1-3 down



In the doubles, both H&W pairs started strong, winning their first sets with Beth and Ruby dominating 4-0, and Allegra and Summer taking theirs 4-1. But the Leicestershire teams fought back, pushing both pairs into second-set tiebreaks. H&W's Beth and Ruby won their match tiebreak 10-4, while Allegra and Summer held their nerve in a 10-8 thriller.

This took us into a deciding shootout. Ruby and Allegra played a tense match tiebreak, with both sides fighting for every point. Despite taking an early lead, Leicestershire edged us out 9-11.

Final Score: H&W lose 3-4

It was a long day, wrapping up around 9:30 pm, but the girls and parents kept their spirits high, ready for Day 2.

Day 2 Arrival

The team arrived at 8:30 am on a sunny morning, ready for their playoff match against Northamptonshire. The previous day's excitement had the girls eager to finish strong. Matches began at 9:00 am.

Playoff: H&W vs. Northamptonshire

Ellie and Ruby opened for H&W. Ellie fought hard, forcing her opponent to chase down balls, but despite a strong effort, she lost 3-4(2), 1-4. Ruby was in her element, playing a near-flawless match to win 4-0, 4-1. Summer faced Lois, whose tricky variety, including a drop shot return, threw her off. After being down 0-3 in the second set, Summer started to find her rhythm, but it was too late, she got back to 2-3 but couldn't convert the game points to take the match to a tie-break. Allegra had a fierce match with Mya, but Mya's power and consistency helped her win 1-4, 1-4.

Score after singles: H&W 1-3 down

The doubles matches were critical, and the girls delivered! Summer and Ellie won their first set 4-1, but Northamptonshire adjusted to take the second set 4-2. In a tense match tiebreak, H&W held on to win 13-11. Meanwhile, Allegra and Ruby played with fantastic energy, winning their first set 4-1. Their opponents fought back to take the second 4-2, but H&W responded by winning the match tiebreak 10-7.

Into another shootout! Ruby and Summer saved their best tennis for last, with incredible volleys and cross-court shots leading them to a 10-7 victory in the deciding tiebreak.

Final Score: H&W win 4-3

Summary

- 3rd place out of 6 teams
- Congratulations to Derbyshire for securing 1st place
- Won 5 out of 6 doubles matches
- Won 1 out of 2 shootouts
- Won 8 out of 17 tiebreaks/match tiebreaks
- Fabulous team spirit!

We play, we learn, we move forward!

Well done to everyone, and a special thank you to Katy for all her help this weekend!

Chris Marlow, Captain

12U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The boys were in group 2a hosted by The Shrewsbury Club. The group of five counties included Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire & Lincolnshire.

Captain: Tony Ravenscroft

Assistant: Harvey Ravenscroft

Team:

- Eshaan
- Ruben
- Austin
- Daniel
- Benjamin

It was Gloucestershire for our first match. We went 0-2 down after two tough singles for Dan & Ben. Austin went a set down against the Gloucestershire number two then fought back keeping a good level and controlling points with his forehand to win the 2nd set 4-2. Austin showed great composure under pressure to win the match tie break 10-8 and win a much-needed rubber. Eshaan was hard to beat at number 1 and showed great determination to win his singles 4-2, 4-1, 2-2 in rubbers and it was down to the doubles. Our boys took the edge in both matches showing mental toughness in tie breaks. Ruben & Dan winning 4-3, 4-2 and Austin & Eshaan coming back from a set down to win 2-4, 4-1, 10-7.

4-2 victory against Glos!!

The 2nd tie against Lincolnshire saw some very close singles matches. Ben battled against their number 4 and lost out 4-2, 4-1. Dan had a comfortable win against their number 3 winning 4-1, 4-0. After winning the 1st set and maintaining a good level, Austin dropped the 2nd set but once again showed good focus and composure to win the match tie break 11-9. Eshaan went a set down, but this didn't faze him. He defended well and took his opportunities to attack to gain our 3rd singles rubber 1-4, 4-0, 10-3. It was an amazing effort to get a 3-1 lead. The boys continued the momentum in the doubles with straight set wins with the same pairings of Austin/Eshaan & Dan/Ruben to take the tie 5-1.

5-1 victory against Lincs!!

We finished day 1 top of the group with two matches to play. The team enjoyed a game of bowling and a bite to eat after a successful first day.

We knew the 2nd day was going to be tough. First up was Staffordshire and we got off to a great start with both Dan & Austin winning their singles in straight sets against their number 4 & 3 respectively. Ruben was up next and put up a brick wall against an attacking player and took the first set 4-2. With a slight dip in level, a couple of cracks appeared in the Ruben wall, and Ruben lost the 2nd set 2-4. Ruben reset and once again with great defending, taking his chances and winning the mental battle won the tie break 10-3 after going 1-3 down. Eshaan played a strong number 1 and showed a good aptitude to make some tactical changes which were out of his

comfort zone. This wasn't enough this time to take the win but will help him in future matches. 3-1 up in the singles and the doubles was all to play for, needing one win to secure the victory. Sticking with the same pairs the boys took to the court and both were evenly matched. They found themselves once again in match tie breaks. We were currently 5 from 5 in match tie break wins and all 4 boys showed that teamwork, togetherness and positive mental attitude can get you through tight situations. Austin & Eshaan won 10-8 and Dan & Ruben won 10-4.

5-1 victory against Staffs!!

The final tie was against Shropshire, who hadn't been beaten so far this weekend.

The rain had started, and conditions were different. Austin lost out to their number 3. Dan went 2-1 down when the rain delay came. This was a good time for a break for Dan, who improved his level once back on court and battled through the first set to win 4-3. Dan kept the momentum going to win the second set 4-1, levelling the tie at 1-1 in rubbers. Eshaan had a tough 1st set and used his consistency and tactical awareness to battle through in a first set tiebreak. He continued the good form into the 2nd set, maintaining his poker face and winning 4-0. The Ruben brick wall was staying strong, and he won his singles 4-0, 4-2 to give us another 3-1 lead. Once again, it was down to the doubles to decide the tie and if H&W could finish as group champions. Our solid doubles pairings of Austin & Eshaan and Dan & Ruben didn't show any signs of folding. They performed well and worked together to win both doubles. Another match tie break win for Austin & Eshaan winning 4-2, 1-4, 10-6 and another tie break win for Dan & Ruben winning 4-3, 4-1 to be crowned champions!!

5-1 victory against Shrops!!

We had an amazing weekend of competitive tennis. Although we won 5-1 three times and 4-2 in the other tie, every tie was close and could quite easily have gone the other way in all the ties. The players showed great resilience, teamwork, mental toughness and the desire to win and the numbers show it with 8 out of 8 match tie break wins and 7 out of 8 set tie break wins. It's been a pleasure for myself and Harvey to captain this team. The boys were amazing all weekend. They were very attentive which helped them gain the edge and showed a great team spirit on and off the court, great fun!!

Thanks to all the players and parents for all their support for the team over the weekend!!

Tony Ravenscroft & Harvey Ravenscroft
12U Boys Captains

14U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

The boys were busy competing in the 14U County Cup in Division 1A this weekend. H&W's 14U rankings meant that the boys qualified into division 1 and were grouped up with Buckinghamshire and Cheshire with the other counties in the other group being Leicestershire, Yorkshire and Warwickshire.

The boys team led by Captain Matt Tully and Assistant Andrew Griffiths consisted of Harry, Ollie A, Ayrton, Ollie and Tom.

After a good warm up the boys were excited to get started with 3 and 4 going first against Cheshire. Ayrton at 3 played some aggressive and confident tennis, moving his opponent around the clay courts using great angles and maximizing use of his forehand to gain advantage in this match winning 4-1 4-0. Ollie Arch battled away at 4 singles and hit some excellent winners with some aggressive tennis but decision making sometimes let Ollie down going for the wrong shot and the wrong moment causing a 4-2 4-2 loss. Next up was Harry at 1 and Ollie S at 2. After winning the first set in a tiebreak using his forehand to move his tricky lefty opponent around the court, his opponent came out strong in the second set winning 4-0 which meant Harry would have to come through a championship tiebreak to win this one. He upped his game, pumped himself up with the support of his teammates and parents watching and got the 10-7 win. Ollie Stevens produced a confident display at 2 proving too consistent for his opponent winning 4-2 4-2.

So, 3-1 up after the singles the boys needed 1 of the doubles to win the tie. Harry and Ayrton teamed up at 1 and got the first set 4-2. Tom and Ollie S battled away but lost their first set 4-1 so things were very close and tense. Tom and Ollie managed to pull things back in the second set with some really good tennis to win the second 4-0. Ayrton and Harry locked in a close battle lost the second 4-3 losing the second set 9-7 in a tiebreak. So, both pairs had to really focus and knuckle down. Both matches went back and forth. Harry and Ayrton thankfully pulled through and got the win 10-7 to get H&W over the line whilst Tom and Ollie had a really close finish just losing 11-9.

Result: 4-2 Win vs Cheshire

Next up was a strong Buckinghamshire with many players ranked inside the top 50 in the country. This time all 4 singles matches were on at the same time. Ayrton and Ollie Arch again featured at 3 & 4 singles. Ollie played a consistent opponent and couldn't quite find his best level losing 4-1 4-1 despite some very close games. Ayrton battled away and managed to gain set point in a first set tiebreak but couldn't quite convert losing the set 4-3 before losing the second set 4-0. Ollie Stevens battled at 2 singles but again the opponent seemed too strong and it was a 4-0 4-2 loss. Harry was in an epic match, the match featured 3 tiebreaks. Harry lost the first set 4-3, won the second 4-3 and then all eyes were on his match for the third set. Wow the boys produced some stunning tennis, and both boys showed great examples of determination, courage at big moments, exemplary movement and ball striking. The tiebreak went back and forth but Harry couldn't quite get the win losing 11-9.

The doubles were a good opportunity to have a good go at practicing being more clinical at the net. Ollie Arch and Harry teamed up at 1 doubles but couldn't quite find it against a strong



Buckinghamshire pairing and lost 4-0 4-2. Tom and Ollie Stevens had another really close battle losing 4-1 3-4 10-7. Not the result we wanted but Buckinghamshire did go on to win the whole thing and if some results went the right way it could have ended up being a close match up.

Result: 6-0 Loss vs Buckinghamshire

Finishing second in the group meant we played second from the other box which was Warwickshire on the Sunday. The weather wasn't good in the morning so the referee notified us of a delay. The team took part in some good team bonding by going to the arcade in the morning enjoying lots of different arcade games together. Many of the players regular compete/train with the opposition so this match presented different challenges. Ollie was involved in an epic. Ollie displayed great focus, determination and really brought his level in this match winning 1-4 4-3 10-8, a great comeback and display from Ollie. Ayrton was also involved in a close match up, many of the games went to sudden death deuce but his opponent always seemed to come up with great shot making on break points. He lost the first 4-2 but hung in there this time in the second set just losing out on tight games again losing 4-1. Harry's opponent came out firing and Harry struggled to find his feet in this one losing. Ollie S came up with some great tennis racing to a 3-0 lead but couldn't quite maintain that level and his opponent came back winning 4-3 4-0.

Therefore, it was 3-1 after the singles and it was going to be a tough ask to come back with the strong Warwickshire pairings. Warwickshire played their 1 and 5 at 2 doubles meaning Ollie and Tom at 2 had a really tough match up and the pair couldn't quite get this one losing 4-0 4-1. Harry and Ayrton again reunited but fell slightly short losing 4-2 4-3.

Result: 5-1 Loss vs Warwickshire

Boys 14&U County Cup Standings

1. Buckinghamshire
2. Yorkshire
3. Warwickshire
4. Herefordshire & Worcestershire
5. Leicestershire
6. Cheshire

Take Homes for the team:

1. Great effort and definitely overachieved when looking at rankings and WTN compared to other counties so great performance.
2. Can we take our opportunities more on big point, tiebreaks and close games.
3. Can we more resilient when losing close sets to come back stronger next set, maintaining positive body language.

Thank for to all the players and parents who came along to Leicestershire this weekend, it was a really enjoyable weekend and the boys all did a great job and were a credit to the county

Captain: Matt Tully

18U GIRLS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Venue: Nottingham Tennis Centre

Division 2a: 1-3 March 2024

Teams: H&W, Middlesex, Avon, Lancashire

Captain: Tony Ravenscroft

Assistant Captain: Katy Lewin

H&W Team: Josie, Oliwia, Macy, Marina, Holly, Beth, Maddie and Caoimhe.

We travelled to Nottingham on Thursday afternoon for a practice session before the event.

The girls knew this was going to be a strong event, after being promoted 3 yrs in a row from Div 5 to Div 2.

The first day was against Lancashire.

We had lots of mini battles and some close sets. Holly lost out in 3 sets lasting 2hrs and 40 minutes. Macy got through her match with aggressive tennis to take the only win of the day in straight sets.

We lost 1-8.

Lancashire were strong and it was tough to get the wins. There were some areas we could improve, so we stayed late for a short training session in anticipation for the ties against Middlesex & Avon.

We had Middlesex on day two. Although they are ranked way ahead us, the girls performed well and with intensity. Lots of close battles within the games. It was a great effort with Macy losing out in 3 sets to their number 3, Oliwia & Macy losing in a tie break to their number 1 pair and Beth & Holly having two close sets.

Josie, Oliwia, Beth, Maddie & Caoimhe in the other singles and Marina & Maddie in the other doubles worked hard to compete well against strong opponents but the level from the Middlesex team was high and difficult for us to gain any wins.

0-9 was the score in rubbers but lots learnt and improved on from the first day.

We had some down time on Saturday evening, we went bowling and to Nando's for dinner. Marina surprised us getting the highest score in bowling after saying she's never bowled without this sides up(hustler).

The girls were fast to sleep after two busy days and ready for action on Sunday morning.

The final tie against Avon was to decide who would stay in Div 2 and who would move to Div 3.

We had a great start in the singles with Holly & Beth both putting in good performances to secure two singles rubbers against their number 5 & 6 respectively.

Marina lost out at number 4.

Macy dropped the first set after some great battles. This didn't faze Macy who loves a fight, and fight she did, with relentless attacking and grinding her opponent down to win the following two sets. It was survival of the fittest, both physically & mentally, and Macy showed what a great competitor she is to get the win.

3-3 after the singles with 3 doubles to play.

Holly & Beth took control early against their no.3 pair with consistent groundstrokes and attacking volleys when they had chances. They won the first set 6-3. Their opponents changed their tactics, but Holly & Beth kept the momentum going with a 6-2 set to put us 4-3 up in rubbers.

Oliwia & Marina lost the first set 3-6 against their no.2 pair playing some great tennis. In the 2nd set the girls competed at a high level maintaining the groundstroke tempo and then taking control of the net to win the 2nd set 7-6. The match tie break was close but didn't go our way making it 4-4 in rubbers.

Josie & Macy went 2-5 down against the no.1 pair, fought back and lost out in a 1st set tie break. The level of the groundstroke battles was really high, and it came down to who could maintain this quality from the baseline and who could take the volley to change the rhythm and control the point. It was so close, with the Avon pair edging it with a 7-5 2nd set giving Avon the 5-4 victory.

The girls were gutted, they worked so hard, and they were so close to gaining the victory on the final day.

The effort and support from the whole team was amazing and to make it this close on the final day against higher ranked players just shows how well they did.

This was the last year for Josie, Beth, Holly & Caoimhe. They will be missed. We have a good bunch of younger players coming through and we will be fighting for promotion once again next year.

The level of this event is the highest we have faced and a great challenge for the team.

The girls did themselves and the county proud. They are a great group and it's been a pleasure once again for myself and Katy to captain this team.

Thanks to all the team for all their efforts over the three days. It's been fun.

Tony Ravenscroft
18U Girls County Captain

18U BOYS COUNTY CUP REPORT

Team:

Sam L, Joe, Callum, Oliver, Sam C, Harry E, Oliver and Toby.

This year the boys were playing in division 6a with the hope of battling for promotion into division 5 with one of the strongest H&W line ups in the last few years.

Due to one of the teams in the division pulling out, there were only 2 other teams to play and so the format was across 2 days instead of 3, with all of the singles matches being played on day 1 and all of the doubles matches on day 2.

Day 1 – Singles

The first round on day 1 was playing against South of Scotland. With 4 courts in play, we had Oliver on the nearest court playing at 6, Callum playing at 5, Joe playing at 4 and Toby playing at 3. Each of the matches got off to a good start for H&W with 3 of the boys going up an early break in the first set, all 4 of them playing good tennis. All of the boys managed to close out set 1 without too much difficulty.

Toby and Ollie's opponents managed to find some good form in the second set to make it much closer, but the boys both maintained composure to close the sets out with a break of serve to take the rubbers for the team.

Meanwhile, Joe and Callum were going from strength to strength and followed up a good first set performance with an even stronger second set. Joe closed out the second set with a 6-0 win over his opponent whilst Callum, although having the longest of the 4 matches managed to get his second set with a convincing 6-2.

Next up were Sam Cand Sam L, playing at number 2 & 1. Both of the Sam's got off to a good start in their matches, taking the first set. Sam L with a tight 7-6 win and Sam C with a convincing 6-1. The following set posed more of a challenge, with both of the Scottish players improving their level and taking both of the second sets. 18U county cup rules, meant that both Sam's were to play a full third set to decide the match.

Sam C managed stay mentally tough and see his match out 7-6(6) in a very closely contested third set.

Sam L, played a very good level in his third set against the strong number 1 Scottish player, in the match of the day (if not the weekend). Some fantastic tennis was played from both boys, but in the end the skilled Scottish player came through to get a rubber for his team.

At the end of the round the score was 5-1 to H&W.

Moving into round 2 of the singles, the boys next set of opponents were our neighbouring county Shropshire.

On paper, as in the previous round, H&W were the favourites, but paper doesn't always mean much!

This round, we had Harry coming in to play singles. Harry was the youngest player on the team, but didn't show any nerves, by getting off to a great start with a 6-0 set against his opponent. After a combination of his opponent increasing his level and a minor lapse in focus to see the score get to 3-3 in the second set, Harry managed to switch it on again and see it out 6-3 in the second. The other boys all played another strong round of tennis winning each of their matches in two sets with reasonably comfortable score lines.

At the end of the singles round against Shropshire, the score was 6-0.

Day 2 – Doubles

Given that the matches against the other counties are a total of 9 rubbers across singles and doubles, the boys had already done enough to secure promotion with a 5-1 and 6-0 lead from the singles.

Going into day 2 the boys knew that the doubles rubbers were a formality, and could have easily switched off and lost focus. Happily, this wasn't the case as all of the pairs went in to the first round of doubles with the mindset to secure an even more comprehensive win.

Ollie came on to play his first match of the weekend against South of Scotland, paired up with Harry at third pair. They played a solid match, winning in 2 sets. Sam C and Ollie W played at second pair, similarly coming through in 2 sets. Sam L and Joe had a tough first set going to a tie break against the Scotland first pair, but came through it 9-7 and then managed to carry on their momentum to take the second set.

Round 2 of doubles against Shropshire saw a similar set of outcomes with number 3 pair Harry and Toby seeing off the Shropshire 3s in convincing fashion in 2 sets 6-3 6-0, whilst on the adjacent court Sam C and Ollie W maintained their consistency with a mature doubles win.

The last match of the weekend was with Sam L and Joe playing against the Shropshire 1s. After losing the first set 7-5, they managed to get themselves going and found some energy at the right times to take the second set. After being 8-3 up in the third set tiebreak, their opponents managed to claw it all the way back to 9-9. The H&W boys managed to stay mentally tough to get over the line in the end 11-9 in the final set!

After back-to-back relegations in previous years, it was great for the boys to gain promotion in such emphatic fashion, with a relatively young team it will be interesting to see how H&W get on in future events.

Well done to debutants Ollie (voted joint player of the event), Harry, Ollie & Toby who represented their county brilliantly in their first 18U county cup. Equally well done to the rest of the team and the players for which this event will be their final of the 18U age group; Sam L, Sam C, Joe (voted joint player of the event).

County Cup is as much about the off court as it is the on court & the way the boys gelled as a team was a pleasure to watch and be a part of this year. I look forward to seeing the future of the team going into next year's event!

Mike Langston
18U Boys Captain

MEN'S SUMMER COUNTY CUP REPORT

This Summer's men's county cup the team took off for West Worthing ready for battle in with an ominous weather forecast ahead.

Although initially the rain played away from our favour on day one against North Wales, subjecting some of our more grass court specialists to play against opponents that were otherwise inclined and played a very solid hard-court game. However, after a 0-3 start the fast 4 format played in our favour and we ended up a surprising 6-3 win on day 1.

Confidence was high then rolling in to day 2 with an 8-1 win against Dorset. Devon, who turned out to be the overall group winners by a considerable margin were a chance for us to try some fresh pairings out after losing Mike Langston who was generously able to find 2 days for the team having very recently had a baby daughter no.2.

Sam Rainer was able to step in to Mikes shoes and deliver a fabulous performance and fighting spirit which ignited the team to take a vital 8-1 win against Lincolnshire which was a virtual promotion security in which was secured on the final day against Dorset. This will be the first time H&W men have been up to division for in well over a decade and with a young and still improving team there are exciting horizons in sight.

A special mention to Alex Parker who despite an injury on day 3 and resting only 2 matches, played the remainder of the week with his partner Alex Maggs, a pair that are an absolute thrill to watch, won 5 out of 7 matches with an underarm serve.

This Summers team was. Charlie Crisp (Captain) Alex Parker, Alex Maggs, Mike Langston, Oliver Nunn, Stuart Shannon, Billy Write, Sam Rayner and George Southall.

Charlie Crisp, Captain

LADIES SUMMER COUNTY CUP REPORT

The team came up against a strong East of Scotland team on day 1. There were on and off showers which meant it was actually hard to get started, but we managed to get through all the matches and unfortunately lost 6-3 to the eventual winners of the group. Our first pair of Paulina and Josie won 2 of their 3 matches and Katie and Katy won a tight match on a third set tie-break.

On Tuesday we played Essex who were another strong side and had three similarly strong pairs. The team fought hard but lost 7-2, with Paulina and Josie winning 2 rubbers again.

Day 3 was another hard-fought loss against Durham and Cleveland who's first pair impressively won all 15 of their rubbers this year as well as winning all 15 the previous year. Despite this the team fought hard going down 5-4 with all three of our pairs picking up a win for the first time.

Despite three loses the team could see they had played the strongest teams first and so there was all to play for on the last two days. Thursday saw a great 6-3 victory over Suffolk, with their 1st pair winning their 3 rubbers, only beating our firsts on a third set match tie break.

On Friday the team beat South Wales 6-3 to avoid relegation and secure our place in Group 5 again next year.

I would like to thank all the players – we took 9 players and everyone was keen to play but respectful that not everyone could play all of the matches. All 9 players won a match which is a great effort from everyone in a strong group 5 as there were no easy matches. Paulina and Katy played all 15 matches which was a great effort. The team had a great time in Ilkley – it was Emma and Maddie's first county week and they were both great assets to the team.

Thanks to Kate Horsburgh who organised the team and accommodation, I was only captain for the event as Kate was unable to play due to exams.

Latesha Grant, Josie Ward, Sally Lewin, Imogen Sinclair, Katie Miles-Payne, Katie Lewin, Paulina Jurkoswka, Emma McKay, Maddie Walsh.

Katie Miles-Payne

MEN'S OVER 35S REPORT

Team – Chris Warner (C), Charlie Crisp, Paul Siviter, Adam Dudek, Paul Cowie

Following a tough relegation down to Division 5 in 2023, the Men's Over 35 team was looking to regain their status in Division 4 this year with a promotion. The 1st morning started with rain which delayed proceedings and meant that the first fixture against Lincolnshire was reduced to Fast4 scoring. 1st match up in typically windy Eastbourne conditions and making his debut for the team, Adam got things off to a perfect start with a close 3rd set tie break singles win, a theme that would run throughout the day. Charlie backed that performance up with an excellent win, again in a tie break 3rd set against a strong Lincolnshire number 1. 3 more third set wins in the doubles, 2 from Chris and Paul S and one from Charlie and Paul C sealed a perfect 5-0 start.

Day 2 v Nottinghamshire couldn't have been more of a contrast weather wise, with blazing sunshine from the off, but the results stayed the same with Adam and Charlie once again polishing off both singles wins and Chris and Paul S completing the fixture victory with a comprehensive doubles success. The last 2 doubles matches were split, with a win for Adam and Paul C to end the day with a 4-1 victory for H&W.

Knowing that just 1 rubber win would seal promotion for the team, Adam competed well in the 1st singles of the day but went down to the Gloucestershire number 2. Charlie then battled to the all-important win guaranteeing the return to Division 4 that the team had targeted at the beginning of the weekend. There was a further doubles win for the two Pauls which meant that although the team suffered a 3-2 loss on the day to local rivals Gloucestershire, it was enough to top the group.

Chris Warner

LADIES OVER 35S REPORT

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

Our first match was on Saturday against Cambridgeshire, however due to rain in the afternoon only 1 match was completed and the format was reduced to only 2 singles and 1 doubles. Emma and Jo both won their singles 6-3, 6-4 followed by close match loss for Rachel and Jilly in the doubles giving a 2-1 win for the team on Sunday morning.

Sunday afternoon we moved on to play Dorset where the match format changed back to 5 matches (2 singles and 3 doubles) however the final 2 doubles were short sets to 4. The match was won after the first round with Emma and Jo winning their singles and Rachel and Jilly winning their doubles with 2 of the matches being won on 3rd set tie-breaks providing some exciting tennis. A 3-2 win against Dorset.

On the final day we played for promotion against North of Scotland who had also beaten both Dorset and Cambridgeshire without the loss of any matches and we came to the same fate though Emma had an extremely close match and only lost in the 3rd set tie -break. 3-0 loss to the North of Scotland.

Overall, our 2 wins ensured we came 2nd in the group. I would like to thank the players for displaying a fantastic team spirit despite a few injuries in the team and some tricky weather conditions.

Jo Shepherd, Captain



CFS HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2024 CFS Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Championships took place at Manor Park, Malvern between 25th and 31st August 2024.

159 players and 333 entries were received across 34 events with congratulations going to the following players:

	Winner	Runner-Up
Men's Singles	Joe Hart	Mike Langston
Ladies Singles	Kate Horsburgh	Katy Lewin
Men's Doubles	James Atwood & Billy Wright	Sam Laidler & Scott Smith
Ladies Doubles	Kate Horsburgh & Emma Mckay	Katy Lewin & Sally Lewin
8U Boys Singles	Jake Webley	James Marlow
9U Boys Singles	Robin Whitewood	Sam Boardman
10U Boys Singles	Andrew Marlow	Sam Richardson
11U Boys Singles	Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez	Andrew Marlow
12U Boys Singles	Eshaan Nilak	Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez
14U Boys Singles	Oliver Arch	Oliver Stevens
16U Boys Singles	Harry Emmett	Toby Ward
18U Boys Singles	Callum Hooper	Harry Emmett
8U Girls Singles	Ariana Hardie	Isla Mae Powell
9U Girls Singles	Ariana Hardie	Florence Northall
10U Girls Singles	Luna Lagomarsino	Georgia Cross
11U Girls Singles	Allegra Iovanel	Ruby Taylor
12U Girls Singles	Allegra Iovanel	Summer Nicol
14U Girls Singles	Kiah Probert	Grace Hadley
16U Girls Singles	Sofie Glinos	Gina Obrey
18U Girls Singles	Holly Stevens	Daisy Williams
10U Boys Doubles	Luca Mainini & Andrew Marlow	William Morris & Sam Richardson
11U Boys Doubles	Zander Archer & Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez	Luca Mainini & Andrew Marlow
12U Boys Doubles	Ruben Chelvarajah-Lopez & Eshaan Nilak	Benjamin Barker & Daniel Laugharne
14U Boys Doubles	Oliver Arch & Ayrton Little	Thomas Griffiths & Oliver Stevens
16U Boys Doubles	Callum Hooper & Christian Vatahov	Harry Emmett & Oliver Ruddick
18U Boys Doubles	Sam Laidler & Oliver Whiteside	Harry Emmett & Toby Ward
10U Girls Doubles	Luna Lagomarsino & Florence Northall	Lottie Haines & Eva Mae Powell
11U Girls Doubles	Allegra Iovanel & Ruby Taylor	Constance Foster & Summer Nicol
12U Girls Doubles	Allegra Iovanel & Summer Nicol	Bethany Hooper & Zoe Walsh
14U Girls Doubles	Grace Hadley & Kiah Probert	Leila Meager & Mia Sztorc
16U Girls Doubles	Sofie Glinos & Daisy Williams	Gina Obrey & Kiah Probert
18U Girls Doubles	Bethany Pye & Holly Stevens	Maddie Walsh & Marina Webb
9U Mixed	Robin Whitewood & Buddy Stanbury	Hugo Speller & Sam Boardman
18U Mixed	Callum Hooper & Gina Obrey	Oliver Whiteside & Holly Stevens



CFS HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY PADEL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to everyone who competed in the inaugural H&W Padel County Championships, sponsored by Cane Furniture Studio.

Our thanks to Hereford Squash, Tennis and Racketball Centre for hosting the event.

	Winners	Runners-Up
Men's Doubles	Joe Hart & Harvey Ravenscroft	Stuart Shannon & Oliver Stratford
Women's Doubles	Lisa Davies & Mary Warner	Maya Hart & Bethany Pye
Mixed Doubles	Robert McCarthy & Lisa Davies	Tom Griffiths & Kiah Probert
Men's 40+ Doubles	Andy Hart & Andrew Speake	Steve Alderton & Robert McCarthy
Women's 40+ Doubles	Lisa Davies & Mary Warner	Fiona Hanks & Rita Orr
Men's 60+ Doubles	Tommy Burton & Martyn Langston	Steve Alderton & Nick Williams

HEAD HEREFORDSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY TENNIS LEAGUES

The Head Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Tennis Leagues ran during Winter 2023/24 and Summer 2024 with approximately 2,000 players playing for clubs throughout the county each season.

40 clubs entered 285 teams in the Summer 2024 season with 1,011 fixtures being scheduled across 46 divisions.

Congratulations to all league winners, listed below:

Ladies Winter 23/24	DL Worcester A
Men's Winter 23/24	Stourbridge A
Mixed Winter 23/24	Manor Park A
Ladies Summer 2024	Manor Park A
Men's Summer 2024	Worcester A
Mixed Summer 2024	Manor Park A

Finally, thank you to Head for their sponsorship and all League Organisers who make each season happen.

Ed Bradford

INCLUSIVE TENNIS/OPEN COURT

Inclusive tennis continues to thrive and grow across H&W with 14 venues now actively involved with Open Court activity.

Highlights

- Commitment to continue VI tennis with the link to New College Worcester into 24/25
- Active working relationship with RNC Hereford to build VI tennis
- Successful ongoing working relationship with Headway in Worcester
- Tennis provider for the National ABI Games in August 25
- Successful delivery of LTA Regional LD tournament at Pershore TC
- New working relationship with SENSE delivering sensory in the County
- Inter County walking tennis events now taking place.
- Relationships now built on the ground with numerous special schools & organisations

Active Clubs/Venues

- Pershore
- Barnt Green
- Manor Park
- Ross
- Droitwich Lido Park
- Droitwich Tennis Club
- Cutnall Green
- Ledbury
- Evesham
- Bromsgrove
- Boughton
- Kidderminster
- Hereford
- Bewdley

Active Registered Coaches

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

Overall Summary

The growth of the Open Court programme in H&W during 2024 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 with over 400 players taking part during 2024

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.

Neil Bates
Open Court Lead

COUNTY SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE REPORT

Year 23-24 has been a little quieter from the safeguarding point of view. Last year many of the issues revolved around different clubs and how they organised their safeguarding strategies and incidents at clubs. This year incidents seem to be more around different individuals thankfully nothing major as far as I know but hopefully each time there is one of these incidents one learns. My understanding is that H and W have had approximately seven incidents reported. There is a crossover between some disciplinary and safeguarding issues.

Taking pictures and videos continues to be an issue. Do please be aware that if a tournament or competition is running at your club folk should not be taking pictures without the permission of players or those whose pictures are being taken. There have been one or two reports of, adults taking pictures without consent.

I'm sure these are genuine errors rather than malice a forethought but one needs to exercise constant vigilance with regard to cameras and videos. The same applies to posts on social media.

In May Adrian and I presented an update for Club safeguarding offices. This was a hybrid meeting and some people did take the time and trouble to come to put in person to Manor Park. It was mostly an update on policies, templates etc but also an opportunity to share issues and problems.

I recently attended the LTA National safeguarding conference. This took place on Saturday, October 5 and had some very interesting and stimulating presentations. Of particular note was a presentation entitled Bystander Theory. I would wholeheartedly recommend it to anyone involved in organising Tennis and any club tennis committees. To summarise and the session explained it much more succinctly than I can hear but studies show that if there are many people in an area where an offence takes place then everyone leaves it to someone else to sort out. The session revolved around how to stand up to what initially maybe a minor misdemeanour but makes you feel uncomfortable and how to call out and challenge such behaviour. The LTA are also keen to promote young peoples' ambassadors. There is a link for applications and training on the LTA site.

Here is the link to the conference and from there the bystander and other excellent talks can be accessed;

[LTA Safe to Play National Safeguarding Conference | LTA](#)

I also recently attended a multi sports session organised by Herefordshire and Worcestershire sports welfare group. There were a variety of safeguarding officers there from a multitude of Sports. My perception is that the LTA is probably ahead of the game in that it has good structure and clear guidance about how to report concerns, etc. The session lasted around an hour and a half and one useful contact I made was the safeguarding officer for Worcestershire County cricket. Cricket, I suspect is on a similar pathway to the LTA, however there is always possible learning to be shared.

Finally, just to say thank you to deputy Adrian and to all the club SOs who all give time voluntarily.

Alison Tuck

H&W SENIOR LADIES CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Ladies 65's win the national championships!! Congratulations to the team of: Dee Smith, Pauline Fisher, Sarah Snell and Janet Williamson who beat Hampshire & IOW 4-1.

Ladies 40's Division 3 - captain Jilly Witcomb

Despite finishing in 3rd place and struggling to find a full team for Durham causing us to have to forfeit that the match the 40's have had a good few matches. We started the season with a win at home versus a lovely Cumbrian team, with Witcomb and Prudden winning both singles and doubles. Forester-Smith and Lloyd taking both their doubles. Our 2nd home match finished the season on another win with Jilly and Rachel winning both singles and doubles and Tracey and Caro taking both their doubles. Yorkshire away was a tough match against an experienced team - both Jilly and Rachel losing out in the singles but winning the doubles. Holly Ross and Lisa Davies unfortunately losing out in both doubles. I am stepping down as captain this year and hand over the reins to Rachel, I am very proud of the players and thank them for their commitment to the county and under Rachel's leadership look forward to encouraging more players to play and enjoy the county tennis.

Ladies 50's Division 2 - captain Jo Skym

The ladies 50's finished in 3rd place in Div 2 just missing out on promotion. We started with 3 wins, and a narrow defeat followed by a lost to champions Cheshire. Playing this year were Jo Skym, Liz Lewin, Beverley Morris, Jo Shepherd, Caroline Badger, Emma Bowen, Elizabeth Staddon, Alice Davey and Marelize Yorke.

Ladies 55's Division 1 - captain Sarah McCormick

Our season was marred by injury, with a mixed set of results. We managed to end up in 4th place and stay in Division 1. Interestingly we beat the division winners Lincolnshire 3-2 and the 2nd place finishers, Lancashire 3-2 but were unable to beat Bucks and Leicestershire. Many of the team will move up to the 60's next year. A special mention to Emma Bowen was unbeaten in singles this year, congratulations to her and to all the ladies that played this year: Emma Bowen, Alice Davey, Tina Manning, Elizabeth Staddon, Penny Smith and Sandy Foulkes.

Ladies 60's Division - Captain Jan Thomas

Our 2024 season was unfortunately beset by injuries and availability issues leaving the squad rather depleted. Some ladies stepped in at short notice, others played for the team for the first time and some took on the captain's role at matches, many thanks to everyone involved, it was good that we managed to field a team for every match. Unfortunately, injury kept me out for the whole season, a sad end to my time captaining the 60's team. There were some close matches but the seasons difficulties are reflected in the overall results.

It's been a pleasure playing with all the squad over the last few years, we've had some good times and great tennis. Thanks Ladies!

Jan

Ladies 65's – division 1 – Captain Dee Smith

National Champions!

We had a great season going unbeaten in our division and qualifying for the national finals. It was a great final and finished a very enjoyable summer.

We beat Hants & IOW 4-1.

Pauline and I won our singles and doubles.

Sarah and Jan won their second doubles- in a 3rd set tie- break showing great determination.

Jan has done really well playing in all bar one of our matches.

So, all in all a great season.



Sarah McCormick

H&W SENIOR MEN'S CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Men 50

No matches played

Men's 55

Ed Edwards (C) Dave Fox, James Kerton, Marc Romain, Dominic Tunnell, Tom White
Warwick L 0-5, Oxford W 3-2, Nottingham W 3-2, Sussex L 0-5
Stay Div 3

Men's 60+

Martyn Langston (C), Rory Guildings, Tom Powell, Dave Norton, Carl Orlans, Geoff Smith, Doug
Evans
Cumbria W 5-0, Staffs W 3-2, Cheshire W 5-0, N.Wales W 5-0
Promoted to Div 2

Men's 70+

Dennis Wyatt (C), Alan Purnell, Ken Lloyd, John Clarke, Roy Halfpenny, John Wormington, Michael
Lloyd
Gloucester D 2-2, Wiltshire W 3-1, Somerset W 4-0, Northampton W 4-0
Promoted to Div 2

Men's 75 +

Mike Emery (NPC), Mike Clinton, Robin Jones, John Tate, Nigel Truswell, Ed Van de Heule
Norfolk D 2-2, Notts 2-2, Shropshire L 1-3, Cumbria L 0-4

Stay Div 2

Doug Evans

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TEAM REPORT

Growing the grassroots:

School Grants – introducing tennis to more children

The LTA Schools initiative has continued 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. Tina Manning has also become an LTA Schools Tutor this year and has run a series of face-to-face training sessions for schools, which has enabled us to work closer with a number of schools.

Additionally, we've worked closely with the School Games Organisers from across the county to increase our exposure to schools and encourage take up of this offer. This has been a fantastic opportunity for clubs and coaches to build their relationship with their local schools. Since the initiative started 78 schools have taken up this opportunity in the county. This is less than 25% of all schools across the county.

We're delighted that the LTA has agreed to extend this offer for 2025. We will be working closely with the SGOs and schools throughout the year to follow up on those who haven't taken up the voucher and link them with their local venue and coach. We will also see how tennis has progressed in the schools that have used the voucher.

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.

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.

The Prime Video initiative comes to an end in December 2024, but a number of coaches and venues from across the county have been involved and introduced more and more girls into tennis, which in turn has grown their participation. We hope that these girls will stay in tennis and become part of their local club.

Coach Education

Coach Qualifications

This year there have been the following courses:

- 1 Assistant Course - 10 candidates (2 last year with 20 candidates)
- 1 Instructor Course - 5 candidates (1 last year with 12 candidates)
- 2 CPDs completed – Great Group Coaching & Coaching Female Players
- 21 participants
- (0 CPDs last year)

Coach and club network

The LTA Coach Forum took place on 10 October with coaches taking part from across 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.

We hope to set up our own coach and club forums in 2025 to further support the work done by the LTA and enable coaches and venues to network with others more frequently.

Tina Manning - Junior Development Chair

LTA NATIONAL & YOUTH LEAGUE REPORT

Data collected from Winter 22/23, Summer 2023, Winter 23/24 and Summer 2024

National Winter League 22-23	D1	D2-3	Total	Not played	National / Youth Winter League 23-24	D1	D2-3	Total	% increase /decrease compared to previous year
8&U	3	3	6		8&U	3	12	15	+150%
9&U	3	5	8	1	9&U	6	9	15	+87.5%
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	9	24	33	
11-18yrs	14	16	30	3	11-18yrs	29	4	33	
Open	3	0	3	0	Open	3	0	3	
Total			56		Total			69	+23%

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	
National Summer League 24	D1	D2-3	Total	% increase /decrease compared to previous year
8&U	4 teams 19 players Boy/Girl split (12/7)	13 teams 49 players (28/21)	17 teams 68 players (40/28)	+88%
9&U	7 teams 43 players Boy/Girl split (29/14)	9 teams 39 players (23/16)	16 teams 82 players (52/30)	+77%
10&U	4 teams 18 players Boy/Girl split (13/5)	11 teams 40 players (31/9)	15 teams 58 players (44/14)	+150%
11U B	0	3	3	
11U G	2	0	2	+2 teams
12U B	6	5	11	
12U G	0	6	6	+6 teams
14U B	1(Prem)	10	11	
14U G	1(Prem)	10	11	+120%
16U B	3	8	11	
16U G	0	4	4	+4 teams
18U B	1(Prem)	2	3	
18U G	0	5	5	+5 teams
MENS	5	8	13	
WOMENS				
Total Teams				
Minis 8u, 9u, 10u	15	33	48 teams	+100%
11-18yrs	14	53	67 teams 39 boys 28 girls	+168% +95% +460%
Open	5	8	13 teams	-7%
Total	27	91	128 teams	+103%

Winter 23/24 - Introduced host venue for 8u & 9u age groups

Summer 24 – Introduced host venues for 8u, 9u, 10u and 11u-18u girls as a host venue.

Regional / National Tier LTA National League

National Tier 14u Boys

H&W Team (Manor Park):

Finished 2nd

Lost to Edgbaston Priory & beat East Gloc & Warwick Uni

National Tier 14u Girls

H&W Team (Manor Park):

Finished 3rd

Lost to Culford & Cambridge and beat Edgbaston Priory & Shrewsbury Club

National Tier 18u Boys

H&W Team (Manor Park):

Finished joint 2nd

Lost to Culford & Priory and beat Warwick Boat & Warwick University

LTA National League Summer (Regional) - Tier 2 – 2024

H&W Men's Teams:

Ombersley & Doverdale Tennis Club – Finished 3rd from 8 - Staying in Regional for 2025

Worcester Lawn Tennis Club – Finished 5th from 8 - Staying in Regional for 2025

LTA National League Summer (Regional/National) - Tier 2/1 – 2024

H&W Women's Teams:

Manor Park – Finished 3rd from 7 – Staying in Regional for 2025

Redditch Tennis Club – Relegated from National tier due to missing a fixture – Moving to Regional for 2025

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

H&W Men's Teams:

Pershore Tennis Club – Midlands Division – Finished 5th from 8.

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

H&W Women's Teams:

Manor Park – Southwest Division – Finished 6th from 8.

Redditch Tennis Club – Southeast North Division – Finished 7th from 8.

Tony Ravenscroft – Updated November 2024