

# **Cheshire County LTA Junior Handbook 2019-20**



**Cheshire County LTA**  
Formed 1895



## Cheshire County LTA

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## Junior County Handbook Introduction

Cheshire LTA's Competition & Tournaments and Junior Performance Committees produce this handbook for the benefit of all Cheshire tennis clubs, as well as targeting junior players and their parents. The aim is to update everyone with what has been happening with our junior tennis players during the last year as well as looking to the year ahead and giving important news from the LTA. We hope you find it both useful and interesting. Please keep hold of it for future reference.

Since last year, the Junior Performance Committee has been especially busy working with our new **Junior Performance Co-ordinator Simon Thornewill**. Simon was appointed back in October 2018 and, in a relatively short time, has made a real impact working with all the Junior County Captains and Vice Captains, setting up the new training programme for our age groups from 8U to 18U, as well as organising many “friendly” inter county matches. You can read more about the work Simon is engaged in later in this handbook.

I always like to highlight some of the successes of our junior teams and players and I'm always faced with a problem with who to mention as there are so many to choose! Our **10U Girls and 10U Boys** teams, captained by Amanda Twigg and Tony Green respectively, have proven to be the stand out junior teams with both winning their qualifying regional events to qualify for the National Finals. These were quite fantastic achievements from the girls' team of **Eva Jenkins, Amy McMahon, Susanna Thompson and Annabel Wong**, and the boys' team of **Isaac Eyo, Thomas Herbert, James Mayers and Aran Selvaraasan**. The girls went on to finish 5th overall in the UK and the boys finished 7th. Whilst all our junior age group teams performed well in their respective competitions (see page 15 for results) the **18U Boys** team deserve a special mention as they gained promotion from National Group 3.





It's always interesting to see if any of our older junior players can develop their games in order to make the transition into our Ladies and Men's County teams. It is inevitably a big challenge to make this breakthrough so congratulations go to **Alice Shields, Jemma Cave, Ben Nicol and Tom Owen**.

I should add that it's one thing being selected for the first time and another matter altogether establishing yourself as a regular member of either squad. This is the next target for all aspiring junior players.

I cannot complete this summary of Cheshire Junior tennis without mentioning a few other junior players who have produced some stand out individual performances over the last 12 months.

**Sam Reeve (16U & 18U), Jonah Gethin (16U), Alfie King (12U), Susanna Thompson (9U & 10U) and Aran Selvaraasan (9U)** have shown themselves to compare well with the very best juniors for their age group in the UK. We shall be watching their progress with interest in 2019/20 and hope there will be more Cheshire junior players who can follow in their footsteps.

We continue to be interested to hear the views of our junior players and their parents regarding any tennis matters. Please do not hesitate to speak to any of our Committee members should you have any ideas as to how we might improve upon the current work we are undertaking.

**The Junior Performance Committee members are:** Mark Hunter (David Lloyd Cheshire Oaks), Debbie McKeever (Bramhall Lane LTC), Liz Sweeting (Bramhall Lane LTC) & Simon Thornewill (David Lloyd Cheadle).

**The Competitions & Tournaments Committee comprises** Barbara Bloor (Heswall LTC), John Doe (Congleton LTC), Esme Laing (Birkenhead LTC), Russell Lawrence (Cheadle LTC), Debbie McKeever (Bramhall Lane LTC), Barbara Newnes (Birkenhead LTC), Linda Simpson (Heswall LTC), Liz Sweeting (Bramhall Lane LTC), and Anthony Wilding (Hoole LTC).

**John Hilton**

**Chairman** - Competitions & Tournaments Committee, Junior Performance Committee

## County Junior Performance Co-ordinator

I would like to take this opportunity to give you an insight into my current role as Cheshire Junior Performance Co-ordinator. I have been in this role since October 2018 and I have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with the County. I have been coaching in Cheshire for the past 7 years, mainly at David Lloyd Cheadle. I have also captained the 18U Girls, 12U & 10U Boys County Teams. This role is something that is very important to me, as I grew up training in a similar system when I was younger. County tennis is fundamental to a player's development and it's something that has kept me involved in County Tennis for the past 25 years.

I have a wide range of responsibilities within my role, which include; organising and overseeing County training, setting up County matches and creating positive links with clubs, coaches, parents and players within the County set up. I am very proud that over 60 players have represented Cheshire in County matches over the past 8 months. This includes all age groups from 18U to 9U. I'm happy to announce that the 9U team played their first ever County match in June which was a huge success. The County held an Open Day for players born in 2010, 2011 and 2012. It was good to see over 90 children attending from many different clubs across Cheshire.

It has been a pleasure to work closely with so many talented Captains and Assistants who have done a brilliant job for the County over the past year.

### What's next for Cheshire?

1. Organise County training for September 2019 till July 2020.
2. More County matches – four per age group (10U – 18U).
3. Introduction of a new age group into County training (11U).
4. Adapt to the new changes from the LTA including age group and rating system changes.

If you have any additional questions on my role please contact me:  
[Simon@cheshirecountyta.org.uk](mailto:Simon@cheshirecountyta.org.uk)

**Simon Thornewill**





## Annual Junior County Championships

During the last week of August every county runs a Junior County Championships. Cheshire LTA is keen to provide opportunities for aspiring young tennis players from the age of 8U to 18U to compete against each other. We aim to attract players from as many club as possible. Players from 12U are welcome to enter up to 3 events (maximum of 2 singles/2 doubles) using the LTA website. All players will receive a free Cheshire Tennis tee shirt or drinks bottle.

There are separate 8U, 9U and 10U singles events as well as a doubles event for 10U. The 8U and 9U are played on separate days at Birchwood Tennis Centre, Warrington. All the other events are played at Hoole LTC, Mickle Trafford, near Chester.



## County Championships Frequently Asked Questions

### What exactly are the County Championships?

County Closed tournaments have traditionally catered for aspiring junior players. They are open to players of all ages and abilities. The Championships will mark the finale to the summer holidays and should provide enjoyment for competitors and spectators alike.

### What are the eligibility criteria?

A player is required to compete in his/her own County's Championships. A player's county is defined by his/her place of birth or place of permanent residence (for at least six months).

### What happens if a player loses their first singles match?

We offer all players the opportunity to play in a bonus draw to guarantee all players at least two matches.

### What is a progressive draw?

The aim of a progressive draw is to try and match players of a similar standard in the first/early round(s), therefore avoiding playing the highest rated players, who are introduced into the draw later in the competition.

### Can a player enter just doubles?

Yes, doubles entries are welcome, although we do like players to enter both singles and doubles events if possible.

### Is there a closing date for entries?

Yes, make sure you read the specific tournament information on the LTA's website to find out about the entry process and note closing deadlines.

### Will there be prizes?

Yes, the County Champions in all events receive a cup (which must be returned after a year), as well as a winners medal. All runners up receive a medal in recognition of their achievement. The winners in the 18U singles events are also offered automatic entry into the main draw of the Ladies' and Men's County Championships which starts immediately after the Junior Championships on 30th August. The 12U singles winners will be offered the opportunity to compete in the Babolat Cup 2019 which is held at Edgbaston Priory LTC, Birmingham on 14th & 15th September. This is a special National tournament where County Champions compete against each other.

## Fair Play

Fair Play is an important value in tennis. We are committed to ensuring that tennis is played in a fair, open and inclusive nature at all levels.

FAIR PLAY  
ENJOY.RESPECT

We've outlined some core values of Fair Play for you to consider when on the court and playing tennis. These values apply equally to players, parents, coaches, officials and volunteers and cover all tennis activities, whether it is a competition, a friendly hit at a local court or a match you're watching.

### Enjoy

- Tennis is a game, enjoy it!
- Be a good sport when you win, lose and watch matches.
- Be a role model and set a good example of the behaviour you expect from others.

### Respect

- Respect other players, parents and officials.
- Take responsibility for your actions.
- Learn and follow the rules
- Call the score and lines clearly and fairly and leave it to the official to resolve problems

In 2013 Cheshire LTA introduced an annual **Fair Play Award** that has been kindly sponsored by Mr and Mrs Davey.

#### Recent winners:

2018 - Harrison Taylor

2017 - Oliver Critchley (Heaton Mersey LTC)

2016 - Jac Goodall (Hoole LTC) &

Matthew French (Bramhall Lane LTC)

2015 - Daniel New (Brooklands LTC)

2014 - Oliver Hague (Bramhall, Queensgate)

2013 - Harry Doyle (Brabyns LTC)

If you wish to find out more about the Fairplay initiative please go to: [www.lta.org.uk/fairplay](http://www.lta.org.uk/fairplay)

## The Dick Fontes Cup

This trophy was presented to the then Junior Tennis Committee by Nancy Fontes, in memory of her late husband Dick. Both Dick and Nancy had been responsible for the formation of a Cheshire Committee solely in charge of all aspects of Junior tennis.

The trophy is awarded annually to the Junior player who, in the opinion of the Competitions & Tournaments Committee, has contributed most to Cheshire Junior tennis in the previous year.

At the time it was stressed that this was not necessarily the best player, but was open to any junior. Certain criteria were laid down amongst which were commitment to Cheshire, shown by a willingness to represent the county, and to compete in the Junior County Championships. Consideration was also to be shown to participation in school and club tennis. At clubs, those who show a willingness to help and encourage other juniors are important factors in selection.

It goes without saying that good behaviour on and off the court will also be considered. There have been many worthy winners of this trophy, and long may the tradition flourish.

#### Recent winners:

2018 - Not awarded

2017 - Amy Redman (Widnes LTC)

2016 - Hannah McColgan (Bramhall Lane LTC)

2015 - Saleem Rizvi (Hoole LTC)

2014 - Adam Jones (Prenton LTC)

2013 - Sean Sivewright (Prestbury LTC)



## LTA Performance Strategy 2018 – 2028

Simon Timson LTA Performance Director launched a new Performance Strategy for 2018 to 2028 with the **Vision** “*To make GB one of the most respected nations in the world for player development.*” His **Aim** is to “*Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures people, teams and leaders.*”

### Key Areas in the strategy:

**National Academies:** From September 2019 two new full time National Academies will be located at the University of Stirling and Loughborough University. They will provide full time residential training for the very highest potential junior players normally aged 13 -18 years of age.

**Regional Player Development Centres (RPDCs):** 11 new Regional Player Development Centres have been up and running since September 2018. High potential juniors, aged 10 to 14 years, aspiring to be selected for a National Academy have the opportunity to receive subsidised training, coaching and conditioning support at these centres. There is one RPDC in the North West at Bolton. Players selected can expect high quality training and competition in a local and affordable setting.

The following LTA staff are involved in our region:

- Richard Plews – National Age – Group Coach North & 14U Boys Age – Group Captain
- Chris Peet – Regional Pathway Coach – North
- Andy Wilkinson – Lead County Pathway Co-ordinator North

Regional Training is run weekly in the North West at Bolton, led by Chris Peet. Players are invited to be involved following clear selection criteria.

**Cheshire LTA's commitment to the LTA Performance Strategy:** The Cheshire County LTA Executive has a key role to play in overseeing all matters regarding tennis across Cheshire. They have recently agreed to fully support the new Performance Strategy which has involved committing significant amounts of money to the appointment of a **Junior Performance Co-ordinator (JPC)** as well as offering additional training opportunities for our most promising junior players. **Simon Thornewill** is the County JPC and he started working for the County in October 2018. Simon has already made a significant impact and you can read more about the work he is undertaking within this handbook.

**Andrew Wilkinson** Lead County Pathway Co-ordinator - North

# Cheshire LTA Junior County Championships 2018

## Event

Girls' Singles	Winner	Runner Up
18U	Alice Shields	Amy Redman
16U	Alice Shields	Debra Abraham
14U	Lara Wedd	Jemma Cave
12U	Elena Asgill - Whalley	Abi Redman
10U	Eva Senior	Leila Green
9U	Susanna Thompson	Amy McMahon
8U	Skye Thomas	Annabel Wong

Boys' Singles	Winner	Runner Up
18U	Llewelyn Bevan	Matthew Cooper
16U	Matthew Cooper	Mason Dace
14U	Andy Brisdon	Mason Dace
12U	Alfie King	George Boles
10U	Alfie King	Zach Thompson
9U	Aran Selvaraasan	Dylan Goldsmith
8U	Dylan Goldsmith	Casper Hague



# Cheshire LTA Junior County Championships 2018 *Continued*

## Event

Doubles	Winners	Runners Up
Girls' 18U	Rhona Cook & Olivia French	Amy Redman & Emma Standish
Girls' 16U	Jemma Cave & Lara Wedd	Emily Edwards & Anna Jones
Girls' 14U	Alice Kraunsoe & Alice Shields	Debra Abraham & Maldini Simic
Girls' 12U	Elena Asgill - Whalley & Abigail Yates	Abi Redman & Ruby Roberts
Boys' 18U	Adam Bolchover & Matthew Cooper	Llewelyn Bevan & Ben Nicol
Boys 16U	Mason Dace & Lewis Wilson	Nicholas Bradley & Louis Harvey - Mitchell
Boys' 14U	Ethan Barrett & Andy Brisdon	Charlie Clarke & Lewis Wilson
Boys' 12U	Samuel Senior & William Spencer	Joseph Evans & Daniel Longshaw
18U Mixed	Matthew French & Olivia French	Daniel New & Katie Brisdon
14U Mixed	Aidan Yates & Alice Kraunsoe	Louis Harvey – Mitchell & Anna Jones
12U Mixed	Alfie King & Abi Redman	Richard Carroll & Eva Senior
10U Mixed	Zach Thompson & Susanna Thompson	Regan O'Brien & Olivia Nelson



## Junior County Teams

The Junior County Cup gives players the opportunity to represent their County in team competition in regional and national stages. There are separate competitions for five age groups, 18U, 14U, 12U, 10U and 9U which are held at different times of the year. **In order to compete in these events players have to be selected by their County.**

The 44 competing counties are organised into groups according to their performance in the previous year's event. In the 12U and 10U events the counties are organised into groups on a regional basis, with winning teams progressing to a finals stage. The 9U age group is solely a regional event. Team composition and match formats vary from event to event with singles matches qualifying for ratings wins and ranking points. All these team events involve doubles matches as well as singles.

Cheshire has a Junior Performance Committee (JPC) comprising John Hilton (Chair), Mark Hunter, Debbie McKeever, Liz Sweeting and Simon Thornewill. It has responsibility for all matters relating to the Junior County teams. This includes the appointment of all the age group captains and vice captains, as well as deciding upon the players who are invited to take part in the various age group training programmes. The JPC is involved in the selection process when captains nominate players for the Junior County Cup events. This committee has to agree upon the players chosen by the captains.

### The Captains and Vice Captains for 2019-20 are:

Age Group	Captain	Vice Captain
18U Boys	Matt Chadwick	Jordan Young
18U Girls	Mark Hunter	Sarah Lawton
14U Boys	Stuart Murray	Andy Beswick
14U Girls	Jordan Young	Alex Day
12U Boys	Simon Thornewill	Toby Palin
12U Girls	Yet to be appointed	Yet to be appointed
11U Boys	Allan Morton	Mike Armstrong
11U Girls	Ed Rowland	Amanda Twigg
10U Boys	Tony Green	Peter Leatherbarrow
10U Girls	Amanda Twigg	Ed Rowland
9U Boys	Mark Hunter	Tony Green
9U Girls	Amanda Twigg	Cerys Hughes
8U Boys	Mark Hunter	Joe Hudson
8U Girls	Amanda Twigg	Cerys Hughes



### New LTA Rating & Age Group System

As part of the LTA's work to grow the sport and open tennis up to more people, a series of changes have been announced to competitions that are to be introduced during 2020.

This will mean the introduction of a new player ratings system. The LTA will be launching the brand new **World Tennis Number (WTN)** player rating system in 2020. It is intended to make it easier for players of all abilities to find appropriate players to play with and against.

The **World Tennis Number** is designed to meet the needs of all players from a recreational level through to the performance end of the sport. It will replace the current ratings system **from April 2020**, and for the first time ever will provide ratings for doubles as well as singles. We have been told that full details about the **World Tennis Number** will be announced later this year, including the official launch date.

During 2019 and 2020 the LTA will be also be introducing:

- A simpler 'calendar year' based system for Competition Age Group categorisation, supported by a new National Competition calendar
- A new 11U age group
- The introduction of more team competition opportunities, through a new LTA National League team competition for tennis venues in winter to complement the current successful summer one.

## Junior County Teams *Continued*

As a result of these proposed changes Cheshire LTA has already appointed an 11U County Captain and Vice Captain (see table: page 10). We will therefore be introducing 11U monthly training camps starting in September 2019.

A new age group system will begin on April 1st 2020. The LTA are removing seasons and going back to year age groups. This means if a player is born in 2010 this will be their year group regardless of which month they were born in. Cheshire will therefore be deciding upon the age group training camps according to a player's eligibility to play County Cup for that age group after April 1st 2020.

We are therefore needing to produce 2 sets of different criteria for selecting players for County Training Camps and County teams. As you will see below there is one set of criteria covering the period from August 2019 – March 2020. The second set covers the period from April 1st – July 31st 2020.

**County Team Selection:** The question is often asked by parents, "How do you decide who is picked for the County team?" In recent years we have tried to make the selection policy as transparent as possible. The LTA's new Performance Strategy has resulted in the county making some changes to its team selection policy, as well as clarifying what we take into consideration when deciding upon those players who are invited to attend county training. **ALL** the criteria listed below have equal weighting for players in the **10U - 18U age groups**.

### Selection Criteria for 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U & 18U players from August 2019 – March 2020

County Training Camps	County Teams
Performance & attendance record at 2018 – 19 County training camps	Performance at County training camps
Performance in County matches	Performance in County matches
Performance at Junior County Championships	Performance at Junior County Championships
Ranking	Ranking
Rating	Rating
	Competitive profile compared to peers in the 6 months prior to the Junior County Cup

### Selection Criteria for 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U & 18U players from April – July 2020:

County Training Camps	County Teams
Performance at 2018 – 19 County training camps	Performance at County training camps
Performance in County matches	Performance in County matches
Performance at Junior County Championships	Performance at Junior County Championships
World Tennis Number (WTN) – singles & doubles	World Tennis Number (WTN) – singles & doubles
Ranking	Ranking
	Competitive profile compared to peers in the 6 months prior to the Junior County Cup



### **Please note:**

- (i) Players can be selected for more than one age group.
- (ii) Performance at all County training camps and County matches is important. When captains select players for the Junior County Cup they will take the following into consideration:
  - Head: Consistently makes good decisions, finds solutions (and ways to win), and retains focus in match situations.
  - Heart: Competes well at all times in both training and competitive situations.
  - Legs: Demonstrates good levels of fitness and physical resilience.
  - Weapons: Has emerging strengths that can be developed into a game style that has the potential for success in the future.
- (iii) If a player decides not to accept a place at County training or fails to attend regularly than it should be understood that this is likely to impact on their selection for the Junior County Cup team.
- (iv) Captains will have the option of one discretionary "Captain's pick", which means they can select a player for the County Cup team who might not be one of the top ranked players. The selection will still have to be justified to the Junior Performance Committee using the set criteria.
- (v) There is an expectation that all players who are chosen for County training intend to play in tournaments throughout the year.
- (vi) A long term injury or illness will always be taken into consideration if it causes a player to miss a number of training camps or if it makes them unable to compete regularly in tournaments.

## Junior County Teams *Continued*

### Selection Criteria for 8U & 9U Players:

County Training Camps	County Teams
Attendance at one County Open Day *	Attendance at one County Open Day *
Performance at previous County training camps	Performance at County training camps
Performance in County matches	Performance in County matches
Performance at Junior County Championships	Performance at Junior County Championships
Competitive activity throughout the year	Competitive activity throughout the year

#### Note:

- (i) Players need to regularly attend County training camps in order to be considered for the County team.
- (ii) Players can be selected for more than one age group team. i.e. an 8U player can be chosen for both the 8U and 9U team if considered good enough.
- (iii) A long term injury or illness will always be taken into consideration if it causes a player to miss a number of training camps or if it makes them unable to compete regularly in tournaments.

**\* County Open Days:** We hold two Talent ID/Open Days every year for 6U – 8U players. This is an important part of Cheshire's Junior Performance Programme. All club coaches across the county are contacted with the dates (usually Feb/March and Sept/Oct) and encouraged to speak to the parents of their most promising young players with a view to taking them to one of these days.

## County Training Programme 2019 – 20

All of the Junior age group training camps are organised by the **County Junior Performance Co-ordinator, Simon Thornewill**. The most promising players across the 8U – 18U age range are invited and each camp of approximately 8 – 10 players (9U – 18U) and 16 players (8U) will be taken by the age group County Captain along with their Vice Captain (see page 10 for their names). The camps occur approximately every month starting in September. Most of the age groups run for 10 months of the year through to June, with the exception to this being the 18U group which finishes near to Easter.

There is always strong competition for places and all players who receive invitations are expected to commit to attending regularly (i.e. at least 75% of the camps). If regular attendance does not occur then players will be withdrawn from the programme. Letters inviting players to be part of a County age group squad will be e mailed to parents in August or September.

## Junior County Cup Results 2019

Age Group & Venue	Captain & Vice Captain	Players	Opponents and Results
10U Boys Qualifying Lytham St Annes	Tony Green & Andrew Beswick	Isaac Eyo Thomas Herbert James Mayers Aran Selvaraasan	North of Scotland Won 6 - 2 Lancashire Won 6 - 2 East of Scotland Won 8 - 0 Northumberland Won 5 - 4 <b>Finished 1st &amp; Qualified for National Finals</b> National Finals Results: Yorkshire Lost 8 - 0 Middlesex Lost 8 - 0 Hertfordshire Lost 8 - 0 7th/8th play off: v Dorset Won 5- 4 <b>Finished 7th in the UK</b>
10U Girls Qualifying Lymm LTC	Amanda Twigg & Ed Rowland	Eva Jenkins Amy McMahon Susanna Thompson Annabel Wong	North of Scotland Won 8 - 0 East of Scotland Won 6 - 0 Durham & Cleveland Won 8 - 0 Yorkshire Won 8 - 0 <b>Finished 1st &amp; Qualified for National Finals</b> National Finals Results: Kent Lost 6 - 2 Middlesex Lost 6 - 2 Buckinghamshire Won 8 - 0 5th/6th play off: v Dorset Won 8 - 0 <b>Finished 5th in the UK</b>
12U Boys Qualifying Widnes	Simon Thornewill & Toby Palin	Joseph Evans Alfie King Daniel Longshaw Zac Thompson	North of Scotland Lost 8 - 0 East of Scotland Won 6 - 2 Northumberland Won 5 - 4 Lancashire Lost 5 - 4 <b>Finished 3rd</b>



## Junior County Cup Results 2019 *Continued*

Age Group & Event	Captain & Vice Captain	Players	Opponents and Results
12U Girls Qualifying Holcombe Brook	Jordan Young & Alex Day	Abi Redman Ruby Roberts Eva Senior Susanna Thompson	North of Scotland Won 3 - 1 Northumberland Lost 3 - 1 East of Scotland Won 3 - 1 Lancashire Lost 3 - 1 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
14U Boys Qualifying Sutton, London	Stuart Murray & Ed Rowland	Ethan Barrett Guy Bradshaw Andy Brisdon Oliver Critchley Oliver Hague Ilias Hirani-Worthington	Channel Islands Won 6 - 0 Hampshire Lost 4 - 2 Norfolk Won 6 - 0 Surrey Lost 5 - 1 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
14U Girls Qualifying Manchester Northern LTC	Mark Hunter & Sarah Lawton	Debra Abraham Elena Asgill – Whalley Julia Garcia – Diaz Phoebe Mitchell Ashira Murray Abi Redman	Durham & Cleveland Won 6 - 0 Northumberland Won 6 - 0 Lancashire Lost 6 - 0 <b>Finished 3rd</b>
18U Boys Group 3A Sheffield	Matt Chadwick & Jordan Young	Llewelyn Bevan Archie Blacklock Adam Bolchover Matthew Cooper Jonah Gethin Ben Nicol Tom Owen Sam Reeve	Derbyshire Won 5 - 2 Cambridgeshire Won 7 - 2 Staffordshire Won 6 - 3 <b>Finished 1st</b> <b>Promoted to Group 2</b>
18U Girls Group 2A Southampton	Katie Thornewill & Allan Morton	Ellie Aldrich Jemma Cave Rhona Cook Eve Daniels Amy Redman Alice Shields Ella Walker Lara Wedd	Dorset Lost 8 - 1 Hampshire Lost 7 - 2 Warwickshire Lost 5 - 1 <b>Finished 4th</b> <b>Relegated to Group 3</b>

Junior County Cup Results 2019 *Continued*





## Team Tennis 2019

Team Tennis is a singles based team competition for registered places to play. It aims to provide players of all ages (8U - Open) with regular league matches, against similar standard players in a competitive team environment. Teams compete on a county basis in leagues which are appropriate to their player standard. Stronger teams in certain age groups (12U - Open) have an opportunity to compete outside their county in regional leagues. Matches consist of singles and doubles rubbers.

Another great response from Cheshire Clubs with yet again a large number of entries. This summer saw 310 teams taking part across all age groups. Although the official completion rate is not yet available we are expecting it to be in the high eighties well exceeding the LTA target of 80%.

So well done to all team captains who have made this possible and resulted in more players experiencing more competitive tennis at both singles and doubles.

For the sixth year the Division 1 County Finals were held at Hale LTC and many thanks go to Mark Furness (Club Coach) and the club itself for making such a welcoming environment.

All results for Team Tennis can be found on the LTA Tournament software and if you enjoy playing in a team, why not ask your club or coach about entering this competition?

**For more details contact the Team Tennis Organiser for Cheshire County LTA, David Paterson on 07860 671 774.**

The screenshot displays the LTA British Tennis website. The header includes the LTA logo, 'BRITISH TENNIS', and 'EGON'. Navigation links include PLAY, COMPETITIONS, MAJOR EVENTS, NEWS, COACH & TEACH, VENUE MANAGEMENT, OFFICIATE, and VOLUNTEER. A secondary navigation bar lists JUNIOR, Junior Summer Competition, Junior Winter Competition, Competition Age Groups, and Road to Wimbledon. The main content area features two large banners: 'Summer competition' and 'Winter competition'. Both banners describe nationwide competitive opportunities for juniors from local to national levels, with the summer season running from April 1 to August 31 and the winter season from September 1 to March 31. Below the banners are three columns: 'COMPETITION AGE GROUPS' (explaining age group alignment), 'ROAD TO WIMBLEDON' (describing the HSC Road to Wimbledon tournament), and 'TEAM TENNIS SCHOOLS' (describing opportunities for secondary school pupils). Each column has a corresponding image and a button. The footer shows a breadcrumb trail: Home > Competitions > Junior, and a 'Back to Top' link.



## 12 Counties Championships 2018 – 19

20 boys and 17 girls represented Cheshire in Division 2A of the 12 Counties competition at Corby. Players competed in five age groups (10U, 12U, 14U, 16U & 18U) and played three matches against Hertfordshire, Hereford & Worcester and Norfolk. The format of the competition is unique in that the overall position in the division is dependent not only upon success across all five age groups but also wins from both the boys' and girls' teams. Cheshire had a great winter season finishing 2nd behind a very strong Hertfordshire who won every age group, except the 18U.

This was the first year the County sent a coach to captain each age group and they also selected the teams as well as organising and supporting the players on and off court. The captains had the opportunity to see the players from County training in a competitive environment and to help them in between matches.



A special thank you to the coaches for all their hard work.

10U	12U	14U	16U	18U
Isaac Eyo Marco Greig Thomas Herbert Ben Walsh	Richard Carroll Joseph Evans Alfie King Zach Thompson	Guy Bradshaw Andy Brisdon Oliver Critchley Oliver Hague	Andy Brisdon Mason Dace Jonah Gethin Harrison Taylor	Archie Blacklock Jonah Gethin Ben Nicol Tom Owen
Eva Jenkins Georgia Parker Amy McMahon Susanna Thompson	Leila Green Abi Redman Ruby Roberts Eva Senior	Elena Asgill - Whalley Phoebe Mitchell Ashira Murray Abigail Yates	Jemma Cave Alice Shields Maldini Simic Lara Wedd	Jemma Cave Amy Redman Alice Shields Maldini Simic
2nd	3rd	2nd	2nd	1st

From next year Cheshire will no longer be taking part in the 12 Counties event. Cheshire has been involved in this event for a long time, but as a County we feel it's the right time to pull away from the competition. 12 Counties matches will be replaced with four County matches for each age group. This will give more players involved in County training, the opportunity to represent Cheshire. 60 players have played in County matches over the past eight months, which have proven to be extremely beneficial to our players. The County captains will have the chance to spend more time with the players in these County matches in a competitive environment.

# Junior Cheshire Shield

## One day inter-club junior doubles competition

### A full day's tennis for all teams

The Junior Cheshire Shield is the County Junior Inter-Club Championship. It is played as a one-day event and it brings together junior players from all parts of Cheshire to take part in a great day of tennis.

The teams play in a round robin format in the first round, with matches using a short scoring system. The results of the first round decide placement into a second round of compass draws or round robins, structured so that teams play against opposition of a similar standard in the second round. All the teams are involved right to the end of the competition, so a great day's tennis is guaranteed.

Clubs affiliated to Cheshire LTA can enter with teams of 4 in both the boys' and girls' events. To help encourage more girls to enter, 2 clubs can combine to enter a joint team of girls. The event is held on the 3rd or 4th Sunday in September and the age limit is set to allow players who finished school in the summer to play.

In 2018, the winner of the boys' event was **Bramhall Lane** and the winner of the girls' event was **Widnes Tennis Academy**.

Closing date for entries is **September 9th**.

**The event will be held at Lymm LTC on Sunday September 22nd 2019.**

**Entries or enquiries to: John Doe 07860 907484  
or [john.doe@parkerdoe.com](mailto:john.doe@parkerdoe.com)**





# What is Mini Tennis?

## Mini Tennis

Mini Tennis provides the perfect introduction to the sport for children aged between 3 and 10. Use the power of sport to help your children to develop in an inclusive and structured environment, where they can learn and grow through Mini Tennis. The Mini Tennis programme allows the sport to be accessible to all ages. The smaller courts and equipment, combined with lower-bouncing balls help to produce a platform for young people to get to grips with the game and develop a love for the sport.

### Mini Tennis is split into four stages:

- Tots: 3-5 years - Learn the basics
- Red: 5-8 years - Serve, rally and score
- Orange: 8-9 years - Develop a rounded game
- Green: 10 years - Put your skills to the test



At each stage the game is tailored to fit different age groups with different sized courts and balls. This will allow your child to develop in an environment where they are surrounded by players of a similar ability as well as being able to make new friends who are of similar age.

### Mini Tennis Tots

This phase teaches children between the ages of three and five how to enjoy the game through a series of fun activities with the aim of improving their balance, co-ordination, agility, movement, and racket and ball skills.

### Mini Tennis Red

Mini Tennis Red is for players aged 8 and under. Players learn to serve, rally and score with a slow ball, as well as learning the movement and co-ordination skills needed for tennis. Players are encouraged to play fun competitions in teams and as individuals, with short matches using tie-break scoring.

### Mini Tennis Orange

Mini Tennis Orange is a great way for players to continue their progress from Mini Tennis Red and is for players aged 8 and 9. Players develop a rounded game learning a range of techniques and tactics. Courts are bigger and wider than the red stage but still smaller than full-size tennis courts. There are team and individual competitions with matches using tie-break scoring.

### Mini Tennis Green

This is for 10-year-olds who are ready to test their skills on a full-size court. Our approach to helping children into the sport makes it far easier for them to develop their skills and progress with their tennis. Participating in Mini Tennis will be beneficial for your children on many levels. Their confidence will grow as they progress through the stages. They'll get all the benefits of regular physical activity too, their work on the court will help them to keep fit, healthy and happy. They'll learn the fair play values of tennis as well - these encourage good behaviour and sportsmanship.

You can play your part too; we welcome you to encourage them to practice at home and for them to feedback to you that they're still enjoying their sessions as much as they should. Mini Tennis is not about winning or losing; it's about enjoying sport with a smile on their face.

We want children to flourish in an environment where they feel comfortable and feel like their skills are continuing to improve.



**FAST4 Tennis provides a simple, exciting way of speeding up a conventional tennis match.**

The fundamentals of tennis remain the same, but there are four rules that ensure matches are fast, competitive, exciting and can be completed in a reasonable period of time.

### **The rules of FAST4 Tennis**

#### **1. First to four games wins.**

It doesn't matter how you get there, just make sure you do before your opponent does!

#### **2. Tiebreaker at 3 games all**

At 3 games all a tiebreak is played to 5 points. A deciding point will be played at 4 points all.

#### **3. No ad scoring**

If the score reaches deuce, it's a sudden death point. The receiver chooses which side to take the serve on. This also applies in doubles with the receiving pair deciding who receives the serve - however the pair cannot change positions. In mixed doubles the player of the same gender shall receive.

#### **4. Play lets**

If the serve clips the net and lands in the service box, there's no let and the ball is in play. If you are playing doubles either the receiver or the receiver's partner can play the return.

### **Where can I play FAST4 Tennis?**

FAST4 Tennis was introduced to the British Tennis junior competition structure from September 2015 with the winter county tour (Grade 4 and 5) events using this format for 10U - 18U. Some other competitions across Great Britain will also use this format.

## Cheshire County LTA Contact Details

We have been happily based in our new office at Hoole LTC for almost a year now and have just about unpacked most of the things we need!

Our address is:

Cheshire County LTA, Hoole LTC, School Lane, Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EF

Lynne Whitford, County Administrator, works from Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 3pm and may be contacted at [lynne@cheshirecountylta.org.uk](mailto:lynne@cheshirecountylta.org.uk) or on **01244 301 531**.

Our new website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Cheshire2> has lots of information about all things tennis in Cheshire as well as detailing the support Cheshire County LTA offers to improve tennis in the county.

News and updates are also available on our social media links.



@LTACHeshire



Tennis in Cheshire







Formed 1895  
Hon. Life Patron: Mrs Diane Tod