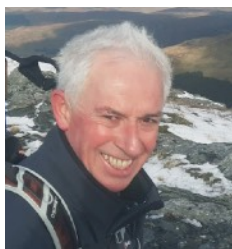


# HADDINGTON TENNIS CLUB

## CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



### A note from our chairman



2021 has been another “highly unusual” year! However, at least our tennis courts have remained open throughout the year, with no restrictions on doubles play or numbers on the courts. In fact, tennis at the club has really flourished, with record

membership (now well over 300). A very welcome feature of this has been the increase in junior membership numbers, resulting (at least in part) from Jonathan Simpson’s very popular coaching programme. We’ve also seen the introduction of Sunday morning Family Sessions; many thanks to Kirsten McGregor, Jon McKenzie (and other parents) for initiating this. It’s great to see the enthusiasm of the children at the coaching and family sessions; they are the future of the club.

After no external competitions in 2020 (for obvious reasons), 2021 has seen a return to play outside our local environment. 16 juniors took part in the Road to Wimbledon Championship in June, with Kyla Hynd and Angus Bailey progressing to the Nationals in Edinburgh. We also had a team that took part in an East Lothian Adults Mixed League, which performed extremely well; many thanks to Mhairi Tufail for organising the team.

Internally, we now have our own Box Leagues, initially organised by Alan Caldwell, but handing over the reins to

Andrew Hall at the beginning of 2022. These are currently singles, but we hope to start doubles leagues in April 2022 – watch this space! The League 1 first round champion was Donald Mcallister – well done, Donald! We are planning to move to the Tennis Scotland Box League Result Manager software in January, which should make it easier for players to enter their results themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee for their hard work throughout the year. Much of it goes unnoticed, but a huge amount of effort goes on behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly so that our members can enjoy their tennis: many, many thanks to Brian East (treasurer), Dave Tomlinson (club secretary), Gwen Andrew (publicity secretary), Bruce Clark (membership secretary), Irene Clark (ladies’ representative), John Tweedale (court maintenance), Jonathan Simpson (club coach), and Andrew Hockey (Covid Officer).

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and for a healthy 2022. I look forward to seeing some of you at the Christmas Dinner on 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**Ewen Macpherson**

Chairman

### Safeguarding measures at HTC - please take time to familiarise yourself with the policies

We are coming to the end of the year. The Club has seen an enormous increase in its membership covering all ages, but particularly juniors and minis.

This increase in junior membership has, in turn, led to family social tennis sessions being set up by the parents of three families on Sunday mornings. These sessions have generated interest from around 20 families. In the interest of children’s welfare, the Club stipulates that juniors must be accompanied by a parent if they wish to participate.

All LTA registered venues are required to meet six minimum safeguarding standards. The LTA and Tennis

Scotland are currently evaluating the effectiveness of safeguarding measures in place at Haddington Tennis Club, as well as others across the UK. Many of you will already be aware of this, as you should have received a link to a survey at the beginning of November asking for your feedback on the effectiveness of safeguarding measures in place at Haddington Tennis Club.

The Scottish Tennis Association in line with the Scottish Government requires the Club to adopt and implement policies to safeguard children and young persons who use the tennis club facilities. All parents

and members are requested to read and familiarise themselves with the Safeguarding policies that are uploaded onto the HTC club spark website under the [SAFEGUARDING tab](#).

Children and young person's welfare are the priority in all we do. Two of our members have completed Welfare Officer Training courses. David Tomlinson (Secretary) and I are both registered as Club Welfare Officers with the Scottish Tennis Association. Jonathan Simpson (Coach) is also qualified in Welfare and is registered accordingly.

[The Club's Welfare Policy](#) is summarised on the Notice Boards and in full on our web page. Our phone numbers are on the website and notice boards.

You will note that the Welfare Policy covers physical and verbal abuse. It also covers the less obvious abuse, such as isolating or subtly excluding individuals from various activities making them feel uncomfortable about being on the courts. This sort of behaviour impacts adult members as well as children and can take many forms, from overt or covert bullying to reacting negatively to another player's duffed shot. None of us are Grand Slam competitors, and we should see duffed shots etc as a Comedy of Errors. The Club feels strongly about court behaviour and has a Guide to Court etiquette.

If you, as a member, have concerns about any particular occurrence which you see or think is abuse then bring the

matter to the attention of David Tomlinson, Jonathan or me and we will investigate the matter to the best of our abilities. If appropriate we will take it to higher authorities.

I am very pleased to say that no such matters have been brought to our attention this year. The Club believes it is friendly and welcoming. It encourages a supportive atmosphere towards all members. If anything should go wrong there is a procedure to follow.

Covid 19 restricted life at times and may do so again. We must continue to follow the guidance to minimise risk and transmission. The Club has not been cited as a hub of infection. Thank you all for that.

There are now many members that we do not know by sight, and of course newer members may well not recognise Committee members. Please take time to familiarise yourselves with our website and the information within.



Have a great Christmas and we look forward to another successful year in 2022.

**Brian East**  
Welfare Officer and Treasurer

## A big thank you!

As 2021 draws to a close I want to say a big thank you to all players, parents and committee members who have made this such a fun and successful year for Baseline Tennis.

Starting the year with sessions being cancelled due to several feet of snow, we had an amazing summer with several camps and the Road to Wimbledon competition. It was great to see so many players out on the courts enjoying the weather and then taking part in our autumn coaching programme.

Looking forward, Baseline Tennis is keen to continue to see more players on court more often. To mark the end of the coaching season, there is a Christmas

competition for all green and yellow ball juniors taking place on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.

I'll start coaching again for 2022 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January - hopefully with less snow than this year! There are already plans in place for several camps over the Easter and summer holidays, as well as new weekend competitions for all ages and abilities of juniors and I am excited to see as many people as possible there.

**Jonathan Simpson**  
HTC Head Coach

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BaselineTennis](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/BaselineTennis)  
email: [jonathan@baselinetennis.co.uk](mailto:jonathan@baselinetennis.co.uk)



Jonathan and the Road to Wimbledon competitors

## News roundup

### Family tennis on a Sunday

Our family tennis sessions have been well attended over the last few months and are continuing over the winter. The sessions are from 10am – 12 noon.

### Let there be light

A new light has been installed at the entrance to the courts to make it easier to navigate the path out when it's dark. A button with a blue led surround is sited inside the gate. Press before leaving the court.

### Easyfundraising

By ordering goods online via our [HTC easyfundraising page](#), you'll be helping to raise funds for our programme of coaching for all local schoolchildren, with particular emphasis on children who are dis-advantaged. To-date, 23 members have helped to raise a potential £279.00. Thank you for your support.

### Floodlights

As many of you know, we have had problems recently with the floodlights. Brian Smith has now fixed the timer problem.

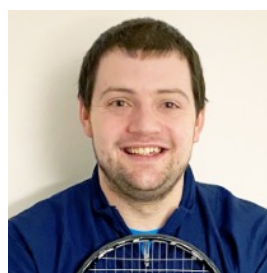
**Ewen, Brian, and the other committee members wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2022**



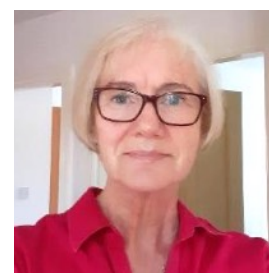
**David Tomlinson**  
Secretary



**Bruce Clark**  
Membership Secretary



**Jonathan Simpson**  
Club Coach



**Gwen Andrew**  
Publicity Officer



**Irene Clark**  
Ladies' Representative



**John Tweeddale**  
Court Maintenance



**Kirsten McGregor**  
Family Tennis Representative



**Andrew Hockey**  
General Member



### HTC Facebook

Remember to share your tennis stories and pictures on [our facebook page](#)



### HTC WhatsApp group

Keep in touch with what's going on. If you'd like to join the group, send your details to [htcmembership@btinternet.com](mailto:htcmembership@btinternet.com)

### Useful links:

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/HaddingtonTennisClub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/HaddingtonTennisClub)

[www.facebook.com/HaddingtonTennisClub](https://www.facebook.com/HaddingtonTennisClub)

If you have any suggestions regarding what you'd like to hear about in our newsletters, drop a note to [htcmembership@btinternet.com](mailto:htcmembership@btinternet.com).