

NORTHUMBERLAND
LAWN
TENNIS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

NORTHUMBERLAND LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Northumberland tennis has enjoyed a successful year in 2017 with some outstanding results from individual players and County teams alike, together with investment in new tennis facilities in the County, and recognition at national level for clubs and teams.

Our accounts show a satisfactory financial performance over the year taking into account the running of the Academy, our County tournaments and our County teams across all age groups.

We were pleased to host a visit by Martin Corrie, President of the Lawn Tennis Association, to the County in November 2017 during the course of which visits were undertaken to the Northumberland Club and to Cullercoats TC where a meeting was held with representatives from Cullercoats, Beverley Park and Collingwood tennis clubs.

Two successful Club Forums were held during the year attended by volunteers and coaches together with regional representatives from the LTA to catch up on the latest developments in the game and to share examples of best practice both on and off the court.

The annual Northumberland Tennis Awards event was held during the Northumberland Open tournament in August 2017 with players, coaches and volunteers receiving recognition for their achievements and contributions to tennis during the year. Margaret Baron from The Northumberland Club and Manager of the County Ladies County Cup Team received an outstanding achievement award. The Award winners are listed in the Annual Report.

The Northumberland & Durham Inter Club League continued to provide opportunities for junior and adult teams from clubs based in the two counties to compete against each other in various age groups in an extensive league system and to encourage competition amongst players across both regions.

In June 2017, the LTA launched a new facility funding strategy, Transforming British Tennis Together. Under this scheme, venues are able to bid for funds to develop tennis facilities either as part of a network of two or more venues working together or as an individual venue. The County has participated in two forums aimed at promoting this initiative throughout the Region and joined with LTA North Region staff in discussions with local authorities and other potential providers.

The LTA and the NLTA continued to promote tennis in schools with the annual Tony Blair Sports Foundation schools' competition for Years 4 and 5 taking place with County Finals held in July at the Northumberland County Tennis Ground. Liaison was maintained with Northumbria University and tennis programmes were supported during the year at Newcastle College and Tyne Met College. In addition, the Northumberland Tennis Academy continued its very successful schools outreach programme with a full programme of school visits and breakfast, lunchtime and after school tennis sessions taking place in over a dozen schools in the Newcastle area.

Investment in parks tennis continues to expand and 2017 saw Tennis for Free sessions at Gosforth Central Park and Exhibition Park and the continued running of local tennis leagues. Liaison was maintained with Newcastle City Council and North Tyneside Council to identify opportunities to further promote the sport within those authorities.

At County level, the annual Sport Newcastle/South Northumberland tournament was held at the County Tennis Ground in June and August saw the staging of the Northumberland Open tournament,

one of the largest tournaments of its kind with events for all age groups in both singles and doubles held in the UK.

An international event for Girls at Under 16 level was held on the clay courts at the County Ground in July. September saw the launch of a County Challenge Trophy event, a multi age group event with players from Northumberland and Durham & Cleveland competing against each other. The tournament was designed to offer a chance for more girls to represent their County and by so doing provide more encouragement to them to keep competing.

The annual Road to Wimbledon tournament took place with Sam Knowles and Emily Allison winning through as the Northumberland County champions and travelling to compete in the national finals at the All England Club in Wimbledon.

The Northumberland Tennis Academy continued to provide an all year- round coaching programme for the most promising junior players in the County with Will Gray and Abby Kelliher from the Northumberland Club competing successfully at national and international level during the year.

The LTA launched a new Performance Strategy in January 2018 and this is currently under active review by the Academy Management Board with a view to new arrangements being put in place following the expiry of our current contract as an LTA grant funded centre in September 2018.

County teams continued in inter-county national competitions during the year at junior, senior and veterans levels. The County Girls and Boys Under 10 teams competed successfully in their respective age group national finals and the senior County Ladies team continued their winning run by gaining promotion in the summer County Cup event to the LTA's Group 2 Division and maintained their position in Group 1 at the winter indoor county cup event.

The success of the Ladies team has rounded off another eventful and busy year in Northumberland tennis with volunteers in the County's 30 registered tennis clubs continuing to run their clubs on behalf of their members, provide coaching opportunities for juniors and adults alike and maintain their facilities for future generations of tennis players.

The Northumberland Club has continued to progress with membership numbers increasing, a return to surplus in 2017 and significant new investment on the Ground with completion of the refurbishment of the Osborne Pavilion, which is now fully functioning as a fitness studio, and an upgrade of the Club's gym at the end of the year. The Executive Committee and the staff of the Club are working hard to provide services and facilities for all Club members and plans for further investment in facilities on the Ground are being developed.

A small loans scheme was introduced in 2016 to support projects in clubs and we have received three expressions of interest over the last twelvemonths with two applications currently under active consideration.

I would like to thank all the members of Council for their support and contributions during the year and, in particular, the members of our own Executive Committee, Tom Kinloch, Martin Clark and George Murphy who shoulder the greatest load in keeping the Association's affairs on track. My thanks also to Chris Sanderson and the coaches who strive to maintain the Academy as the foremost venue for junior performance players in the north of England and to Kim Sanderson who combines her roles as Academy Administrator, County Administrator and Schools Co-Ordinator so effectively.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers in our clubs and other places to play who continue to work hard to maintain their facilities and provide competitive opportunities for their members.

Northumberland Tennis Academy – Chris Sanderson, Manager

The last 12 months has seen the Northumberland Tennis Academy complete its second year as LTA Grant Funded Centre. We have continued to work closely with the LTA to implement a development plan, which is designed to enable us to deliver a programme of the highest quality through regular monitoring and feedback.

At the grass roots level Kim Sanderson has worked hard to maintain the nationally recognised success of our school outreach programme with over 3000 children being given the opportunity to play the game within curriculum time. Kim has also established a full weekly schedule of early morning, lunchtime and after school clubs, which has raised the participation level within the county massively and provided talent identification opportunities. Many of these children have been directed towards their local clubs to continue their tennis in that environment.

We have continued to focus on players who have the ambition and commitment to play at a National and International level, whilst still helping to support players of a county level. We offer comprehensive individualised training programmes, which work on an integrated principle. All of the performance factors are incorporated into these individual programmes with the technical and tactical aspects covered on court in the squad sessions, the mental side is covered by James Newman our Sports Psychologist and the physical aspects are monitored and delivered by Joe Wear our strength and conditioning coach. Our coaching panel meet on a weekly basis to address programme issues but also to expand on and develop aspects of coach education.

Amongst some of the Academy achievements of the last year I would like to highlight Abby Kelliher, Teddy Prisadnikova, Will Gray and Harry Cookson competing in national grade 2 events in their respective age groups. Steph Booth reached the semi finals of the U18 National Championships and Abby Kelliher was the runner up in the U10 National Championships in an excellent quality final. We had a further 6 players competing at the National Championships over various age groups.

The Northumberland Tennis Academy has had regular visits and provided constant feedback to the LTA throughout the year in an effort to remain fully up to date with all performance issues.

In summary, another very productive and successful year as the Northumberland Tennis Academy continues to evolve and improve.

Tennis Development Manager, Jo Cunliffe

NLTA End of Year Report 2017

Jo Cunliffe

1. Places

a) Tennis 4 Kids Programme

- 4 Northumberland Club coaches ran 5 Tennis 4 Kids courses with 50 new mini tennis participants aged between 5-8 years old
- John Henderson
- Gillian Kelliher
- Jordan Simpson
- Tracy Smith

2. People

a) Bayley Cartmell attended the Youth Sport Trust National Talent Camp having been selected and put forward by the Tennis Foundation. The aim of the Camp was to bring together 350 of the most talented young athletes, coaches and officials from across England. Article link is,

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/January-2017/Bayley-Cartmell-Attends-National-Talent-Camp/>

b) North East Female Coach mentoring programme saw 6 mentees complete programme in 2017

- Northumberland based coaches.
 - Steph Black (Cullercoats) mentored by Stuart Cass. Kelly Edmund (Jesmond and Newcastle venues) mentored by Sean Damer. Rosie Pybus (North East Visually Impaired and North East venues) mentored by Libby Fletcher
- 2018 has 9 mentees starting programme on February 5th 2018

c) Kelly Edmund (Northumbria University) was recognised Nationally through her volunteering work. Article link,

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/February-2017/Spotlight-on-Student-Volunteers-Kelly-Edmund/>

d) Rachel Doyle (Northumbria University) recognised locally and starred in BBC Look North's news coverage of Transforming British Tennis Together programme. Article link,

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/March-2017/Spotlight-on-Regional-Volunteers-Rachel-Doyle/>

- e) Kate Wallace (Northumbria University) inspiring journey through tennis!

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/July-2017/Inspired-volunteering-journey-for-Northumbria-University-Student/>

- f) Tennis plays huge part in Northumbria University's National BUC's Award!

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/August-2017/Tennis-plays-a-key-role-in-Northumbria-Universitys-National-Award/>

3. Programmes

- a) Further Education Enhanced Offer Support

- Newcastle College built strong foundations to enhance inclusive programme. Here is article from their activity day (April),

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/April-2017/Inclusive-tennis-event-lifts-the-roof-off-Newcastle-College/>

- Tyne Met have Tennis Activator (Ryan Taylor) who is delivering within College and embarking on Level 2 qualification. Aim is for Ryan to become tennis coach, and help deliver programmes in Clubs and Community based settings.

- b) Hat – Trick

- Multisport programme engaging young people from across Newcastle into sport
- Their volunteers went to Wimbledon for a once in a lifetime experience!

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/August-2017/Wimbledon-Winners/>

- c) Premier League 4 Sport Programme sees Gosforth East Middle School compete at the National Tennis Centre and visit Wimbledon!

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/August-2017/PL4S-Inspires-Future-Tennis-Stars/>

- d) Disability Tennis Network

- North East Visually Impaired Tennis Club continues to grow and offer player pathway from coaching, competition and social opportunities. They celebrated their 6th Birthday in January 2017.

- Wendy Glasper (North East Visually Impaired) won the coveted British Tennis Volunteer of the Year Award and was presented by Cathie Sabin at Wimbledon (July 2017).

e) Northumbria University

- 2 Tennis Interns are delivering the programme in 2017 2018, Dom Hughes and Jess Southwell. This sees them commit to at least 150 hours
- 5 Student Tennis Volunteers supported local and regionally based activities (mini leagues, open days, park and club sessions). Each volunteer committed to at least 30 hours and most of them exceeded this!
- Dom Hughes completed a 9 week work placement with the LTA / TF and was a tremendous success. Dom was running coaching sessions, open days and schools events by himself by the end of the placement and qualified as a Level 2 coach in November 2017!

f) Mini Red and Orange Girls Team Competition

- Participation increases once again with Northumberland extending the opportunity to Mini Orange in 2017. Launch article is,

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/March-2017/Girls-Rally-Round-for-Team-Challenge-Tennis-Launch/>

- Video link for North East programme,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxKMiHCTAKI>

g) She Rallies

- Judy Murray led programme in partnership with LTA to inspire more female volunteers and coaches into British Tennis. There are only 23% of our workforce who are female currently
- 3 North East based female coaches supported a regional She Rallies Event in Manchester, May 31^s
- Julie Arthur (Sunderland), Stacey Scott (South Shields) and Kerry Smith (Newcastle)
- The Activators were led by Judy Murray and local She Rallies Ambassador Stephanie Eadon (Washington)

Articles

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/June-2017/North-East-She-Rallies-Activators-Meet-Judy-Murray/>

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/June-2017/Ace-Start-as-North-East-Serves-up-first-She-Rallies-Workshop/>

North East Year 3 Tennis Challenge Cup saw one of the best events ever take place at the County Ground in March. Everything came together from the players, organisers and importantly Gosforth East Middle School young volunteers. Article,

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/March-2017/Tremendous-Team-Effort-Inspires-the-Youth-of-Tomorrow/>

<https://www3.lta.org.uk/in-your-area/Northumberland/news/April-2017/Invaluable-help-from-GEM-volunteers/>

4. Promotion

- a) JC has developed communication spreadsheet with majority of LTA led activities on.
- b) Ashleigh Baines – continuing social media work for Northumberland LTA and Durham & Cleveland LTA
- c) Full communications process now between North Regional office and local teams.

Northumberland Ladies Tennis Team Report

AEGON Summer County Cup 2017

In July, the ladies travelled to Frinton to play in Group 3 in the Aegon Summer County Cup.

The team played 9 doubles matches each day.

The first day saw a convincing win against East of Scotland 8-1.

The second day was a little tougher but they still beat Berkshire 5-4.

The next two days saw great wins against Cambridgeshire and Sussex, 7-2 in each case.

By the last day Northumberland had already won the Group but in true fighting spirit, the team went on to beat Lincolnshire 5-1.

After two years in Group 3, Northumberland were promoted to Group 2 for 2018.

The team members were Deborah Armstrong, Fran Booth, Stephanie Booth, Amy Hoburn, Lauren Jones, Abigail Lemberger, Jayne Oswald, Alex Walker & Emma Wilson.

AEGON Winter County Cup 2017

In November, the ladies travelled to Bath to play in Group 1 in the Aegon Winter County Cup. Northumberland, for the first time ever, were in the top division in the country and played against Surrey, Kent & Warwickshire.

The team played 9 matches each day, 6 singles and 3 doubles. The team had an excellent win on the first day beating Surrey 6-3. On the second day they played a very strong team from Kent and despite playing extremely well, they lost 7-2. The pressure was on as unlike the other Groups, two out of the four counties are relegated. This meant that it was all to play for against Warwickshire on the third day for second place. In typical Northumberland fashion, the ladies rose to the occasion and by winning 5/6 singles matches, Northumberland clinched second place.

It was an amazing performance from a very talented and hard working group of ladies.

The team members were Deborah Armstrong, Fran Booth, Stephanie Booth, Grace Dixon, Amy Hoburn, Lauren Jones, Alex Walker & Emma Wilson.

Once again. I am grateful to all the team members who give up their time and holidays to represent the County. We are very lucky to have such a strong and dedicated team of players.

Margaret Baron (Team Manager)

Northumberland Men's Team Tennis Report

As team captain I was very happy with the improvement we showed. Obviously, this is down to player availability and young boys getting older and stronger for e.g. James Nelson and Adam Boba making themselves available in the winter and Adam also played a few days in summer, but also the fact our 3 young guys Lewis Scott, Chris Jeffery and Andre Thorpe benefiting from the weakness of the last few years hence getting more matches under their belt than they would have previously hence playing a good standard of tennis. Also, I have been able to develop partnerships over the last 2 years, Andre Thorpe /Dave Esther, Lewis Scott / Chris Jeffery and the real find Steve Gilbert and Martin Van Zyl, with Roman Stepanov being able to play with most players.

We were at Nottingham for summer county week. What a great venue, the grass looked fantastic but we only got the pleasure of playing on it for 1 day as it rained basically all week hence we played indoors or on the hard courts which was obviously a big disappointment to the squad.

We had some great matches, some real close results taking the champions Bedfordshire to 5-4. we comfortably beat Scotland but the main aim of bringing respect back to men's Northumberland tennis was achieved as we proved we are not to be taken lightly.

We travelled to Hull for the winter with the strongest squad I've had available. Also trying to keep Nikki Peel in the loop while he is recovering from his operation. He travelled with the team as coach and did a great job as I was working so big thanks to Nikki who really railed the troops in our last round against Avon. We had to win 2 of the 3 doubles for promotion. James Nelson and Adam Boba won at no 1. We needed 1 win from Andre /Dave or Steve / Lewis - they were both a set down but in the end both pairs won great 3rd set tiebreaks to give us a great promotion. Nikki was great supporting the boys and keeping the great team spirit we have achieved over the last couple of years.

Big thanks to Chris Lott and Martin Clark for their huge support and I'm so pleased the players are giving them some satisfaction for all their patience over the last 5 years; it couldn't have been easy!

Player availability is looking good for 2018 so hopefully 2 more promotions.

Mike Thorpe (Team Captain)

Men's Teams

Mens Over 70 – Duncan McLean

We had a mixed season this year. We beat Avon but lost to Nottinghamshire, Lancashire, West of Scotland and Norfolk (unfortunately by 4 games!) The other matches we lost were competitive. We finished 2nd bottom of the League but at this stage we do not know if we will remain in Division 2 or go down.

Mens Over 65 – John Coope

We had a few new teams in our league in 2017, so the competition was a little unknown. As it turned out our first 3 matches were against 3 of the new teams and they proved very difficult for us.

The first match was down at Bedfordshire who were a strong team and despite the best efforts of the whole team we were beaten 4-1 with Robin Robinson our only winner, which was gained with a strong comeback in his singles match after losing the first set, he won the next 2 sets to take the rubber. Little did we know at that time that it was going to get worse before belatedly getting better.

We next played Suffolk at home and they were even stronger, we lost 5-0 and despite some close sets, one rubber went to 3 sets and 3 other sets ended 7-5, we lost them all. We had a fair idea from other results already recorded when we went to Norfolk that we were in for another tough match, so it proved, as with our earlier away match we lost 4-1, our only rubber win was again in the singles where Jim Anderson won in 3 sets, the last 2 of which were tie-breaks, he was on the court a long time.

Our next match away was in the IOM where thankfully we won our first match 4-1 which comprised of a singles win for Jim Anderson (in 3 sets of course) and Peter Brown whilst Bill Lomas and John Coope won both their doubles matches. Having got the taste for victory, we also won our final home match against Northamptonshire 5-0 with Robin Robinson and Ken Houghton each winning their singles and their doubles match, whilst Jim Anderson and Malcolm Newton won both their doubles matches.

So the end of a strange season but at least it finished on a high note.

Mens Over 60 – Tony Pensom

‘Someone had blundered. Theirs not to make reply, theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do and die. Into the Valley of Death rode the six hundred.’ And so were Dads Army consigned to another season of torment and despair, playing out endless repeats to diminishing audiences and yet somehow managing to retain their stiff upper lip in the face of all adversity.

In the first match, a home fixture against local rivals Durham & Cleveland, the 5:0 defeat did not do justice to some close matches, with sets lost to tie breaks in 3 of the 5 rubbers and John Wiseman and Jon Pope losing out in a Championship tie break in their second doubles match. Colin Pyle and Jim Smith battled well in their singles matches against strong opposition.

Next up were Norfolk, the tie played at Shotley & Benfieldside in the absence of courts at Northumberland Club. Despite the home advantage, Tony Pensom had a day to forget, failing to

threaten the opposition in both singles and doubles. John Wiseman had a much closer battle in his singles and Don Anderson and Jim Smith competed well against experienced opponents in both their doubles matches, but the outcome was another 5:0 defeat.

The third and final home match was against Suffolk, and was to mark the high point of the year and Tony Pensom secured the only rubber of the season in his singles with a 6:2, 6:1 win. The remaining rubbers saw comfortable wins for the Suffolk team against Jon Pope and Don Anderson in the doubles and Vince Kennedy in the singles, the final result being a 4:1 defeat.

A trip to Cumbria came next, but offered no comfort as Jim Smith and Colin Pyle fell in their singles and doubles matches and Don Anderson and Jon Pope were unable to secure a win in their doubles. The 5:0 scoreline was becoming all too familiar.

The final match was away to Cambridgeshire and saw some of the best tennis of the season played, albeit with the seemingly inevitable outcome. Tony Pensom took a leaf out of Colin Pyle's 'Value for Money' book, taking almost 2 hours to lose 6:2, 6:3 in his singles – even longer than Private Pyle as he went down 7:5, 6:0. Don Anderson and Vince Kennedy lost their doubles matches, while Colin Pyle and Tony Pensom lost theirs on a Championship tie break to leave a final score of 5:0. The opportunity of a night in Queens College, Cambridge was used to lick our wounds and reflect on how young all these Over 60 opponents now look.

My thanks go to all my team colleagues for their support over the season, both in matches and in regularly attending our Wednesday sessions. I believe it is true to say that, regardless of the unfortunate results, every match was played in fine spirit with competitive and enjoyable tennis played by everyone. Several members of our group are now scheduled to drag their broken bodies across to the Over 65 squad, while the Over 60's welcome a new Captain in Don Anderson and new players fresh to the age group. My best wishes for the 2018 season.

Tony Pensom

Mens Over 45s – Mark McPeake

The Team did very well in winning 3 matches (Durham, Lancashire & Northamptonshire) but the other two were not played. Warwickshire struggled to get a team for our fixture and later withdrew from the competition. Cambridge asked us to rearrange their game and we agreed to do this so as to play. However, we had to go back to them to ask if we could change a date and they would not do the same. Many of our players had been pulled to play for Churchill, as they were short and the match was felt more important by a few. Cambridge then insisted on taking all points and this then gave the organisers no choice but to relegate us.

Very disappointing, but hopefully we will learn by this and perhaps not be so kind in future. Team for this year looks healthy and we hope to be promoted once again.

Mens Over 35s – Martin Van Zyl

For various reasons we unfortunately could not send a Men's team to Eastbourne for the over 35's.

Ladies Teams

Ladies Over 75s – Sara Chappell

West of Scotland	Won 3 – 1
Lincolnshire	Lost 4 – 0
Surrey	Lost 4 – 0
Hampshire	W.O. They were unable to get a team.

Team members: Monica Ogden, Pat Bottrill, Joan Shutt, Marjorie Lyons & Sara Chappell (captain).

The matches were enjoyed once again thanks to all team members willing to travel – we have no County near us to play. Thank you also to the Northumberland Club and County for use of the courts.

Ladies Over 70s – Angela Appleby

As 4 out of the squad of 5 from last season had now reached the ripe old age of 70 and the majority of the 70's team were 75, it was agreed that we move up to the 70's age group with the 60's team moving up to the 65's. We competed in Division 2B (only 1A&B and 2A&B in this age group). The results were as follows:

Northumberland v Suffolk (H)	Won 4 rubbers to 0, 8 sets to 0, 48 games to 7
Northumberland v Hertfordshire (A)	Won 4 rubbers to 0, 8 sets to 0, 48 games to 15
Northumberland v Cambridgeshire (A)	Won 4 rubbers to 0, 8 sets to 1, 44 games to 13
Northumberland v Lincolnshire (H)	Won 3 rubbers to 1, 7 sets to 2, 45 games to 17
Northumberland v West of Scotland (A)	Won 4 rubbers to 0, 8 sets to 0, 48 games to 13

Thanks to team members Mary Corbett, Megs Rogers, Pauline Storey and Sandra Henderson for helping us gain promotion and we will be competing in Division 1 in 2018. Special mention must be made of the “dynamic duo” of Mary and Megs who didn't lose a set all season and not many games either which may possibly be a record!

Ladies Over 65 – Julie Gainford

We took over from the Ace team of Angela Appleby, Mary Corbett, Meg Rogers and Pauline Storey who have maintained their position in Division 1 for many years - it was a hard act to follow especially drawing the two top teams West of Scotland & Surrey!! We had injury problems - so we lost the other two matches but they were very close. So it's into Division 2 next year.

Ladies Over 55 – Anne Roberts

This was the first year Northumberland entered an O55 team (well certainly as far as I can remember) and we were delighted with our results. After the initial shock of discovering we would have to play singles we really got into it and won 3 out of our 5 matches.

We started with a resounding win over Gloucestershire 5-0 but were beaten by a very strong Derbyshire team 5-0. Over the hottest weekend of the year we succumbed to Hertfordshire 5-0 although we had driven for 7 hours and at least we managed to nab one set! From then on it was victory all the way with a narrow victory away to Leicestershire 3-2 and a final win over Lincolnshire also 3-2.

Many thanks to Sandra Rickaby, Roz Askew, Liz Naughton, Linda Smith and Rachael Michie for a most enjoyable summer.

Anne Roberts

Ladies Over 50 – Fiona Twaddle and Sue Trousdale

Due to injury and people being unable to play, sadly we had to concede two matches meaning automatic relegation to Group B.

Sue Trousdale has taken over the captaincy so fingers crossed this season will be injury free.

Ladies Over 40 – Jane Pledger

Team players - Jill Griffiths, Jo Katory, Rachel Knowles, Emily Ogden, Jane Pledger and Svetlana Zakharchenko.

Also, thanks go to Anne Roberts and Sue Trousdale for playing an away match allowing us to honour the fixture.

The over 40's ladies team, playing in division 1, won two matches beating Leicestershire and Buckinghamshire and losing to Surrey, Lancashire and Middlesex (who won the group).

Northumberland were tied on points in 3rd position and remain next year in division 1.

Ladies Over 35 – Emily Ogden

Eastbourne Devonshire Park

There were half as many courts as usual due to upgrading of facilities at the ground so that fewer counties entered as a result.

Northumberland ladies had some tough matches in a high league but there were some close games and fantastic weather.

Hopefully this year we will be in a more compatible group and enjoy really good games.

Junior County Cup Overview – Girls events (James Newman)

18U Girls

The 18s Girls competed in Hull in February 2017, taking part in Group 4B against Lancashire, Gloucestershire and West of Scotland. A young and inexperienced team lost 8-1 to Lancashire on Day 1, lost 8-1 to West of Scotland on day 2 and lost 7-2 to Gloucestershire on Day 3. This resulted in relegation to Group 5.

RESULT: 4th out of 4 – Relegated

14U Girls

The 14s Girls drew a challenging group of Yorkshire, Berkshire and West of Scotland. On Day 1 at Lincoln, NTB won on a doubles shootout, after drawing 3-3 with Berkshire. However, a 5-1 loss to West of Scotland and a 6-0 defeat to eventual winners Yorkshire resulted in a bottom place finish on % of sets won.

RESULT: 4th out of 4

12U Girls

The girls played their first day in a group of 3 versus Cumbria (l. 6-2) and West of Scotland (l. 8-0). The final match was a 5th/6th play off which was lost to South of Scotland.

RESULT: 6th out of 6

10U Girls

A strong girls team won their regional qualifiers, defeating Durham and Cleveland, East of Scotland and South of Scotland without losing a set. The team (Jess Hart, Abby Kelliher, Sophie Jackson & Teddy Prisdanikova) then went through to national finals in Sunderland. They finished 2nd in their group (defeating Hertfordshire and Leicestershire) finishing behind Kent, who beat NTB in a shootout on Day 1. NTB then lost the 3/4th play off 3-1 to Middlesex.

RESULT: 1st out of 4 (Regionally), 4th out of 8 (Nationally)

9U Mixed

The 9U mixed is a regional event where a mixed boys and girls team competes against three other teams. This was a very successful event which NTB won following victories over Yorkshire, Durham & Cleveland and Cumbria.

RESULT: Winners of Regional Group

Junior County Cup Overview – Boys events (Jordan Simpson)

18U Boys

The 18's boys competed in Wrexham in February, narrowly missing out on promotion. A late injury to Will Gray just a week before the event did slightly weaken the squad, but the boys' attitudes weren't dented by this. The opening two days saw convincing 8-1 victories over both South of Scotland and North Wales, with all involved demonstrating a strong desire to win. On the third and final day, the boys lost a very close contested match up against Bedfordshire 5-4, missing out on promotion by one rubber. Despite being clearly disappointed to finish 2nd to Beds, the attitudes on display couldn't be faulted, with great effort levels given throughout the entire weekend. The team consisted of Lewis Scott, Chris Jeffery, Jordan Lee, Cormac Lunn, Bailey Dawson, Ronan Lunn, Gareth Rickaby.

CAPTAIN – Jordan Simpson

RESULT – 2nd in group of 4.

14U Boys

The 14's boys competed in Lytham St. Annes in May. Days one and two saw tough defeats to Surrey (2-4) and Cheshire (1-5) but it was noted that all players got stuck in and despite the final results, gave a good account of themselves. Will Gray found the team some winning form during these two defeats, coming out on top of both singles matches at Number 1 alongside a doubles victory against Surrey, partnered by Ronan Lunn. Day three saw Northumberland beat Northamptonshire 4-2, a well-deserved win after showing some good competitive spirit over a weekend of tough competition. The team consisted of Will Gray, Ronan Lunn, Gareth Rickaby, Matthew Nice and Marcus Jeffery.

CAPTAIN – Chris Sanderson

RESULT – 5th in group of 6.

12U Boys

The 12's boys competed in Carlisle in early July. On day one, the boys started strong with a comfortable 6-2 win over Cumbria before taking a little bit of a beating from a very strong South of Scotland team (0-8). This saw them finish 2nd in their group of three, keeping qualification hopes alive with a place in the Semi-Finals on the Sunday. The boys fought well on the Sunday in the semi-finals against Durham and Cleveland, narrowly missing out on victory, losing 5-4. In a match where things could easily have gone either way, all involved demonstrated a real desire to win with fantastic support for each other from the side-lines. The third fourth play-off came against another strong Scottish team, this time the South. Unfortunately, the weekend ended with another 8-0 loss. With this said, the players involved did well to compete at an event displaying a good standard of young male tennis and will hopefully be involved in Northumberland boy's county teams for future years.

CAPTAIN – Jordan Simpson

RESULT – 4th in a group of 6.

10U Boys

The 10's boys competed over two days in Carlisle in June. Saturday's action saw the boys finish top of their group, comfortably beating Cumbria 8-0 and pulling through a tight affair with East of Scotland in a doubles shootout, Alastair McLeod and Olly Cass taking the deciding tiebreak. High in confidence, this put Northumberland in the Semi-Finals against neighbours Durham & Cleveland first on the Sunday. The boys came out on top with a 6-2 win and continued in style to finish the weekend with an 8-0 win over South of Scotland to finish first in the event and qualify for national finals, a great achievement! The team involved in qualification included Alastair McLeod, Olly Cass, Jaiden Khanna and Alex Nice.

The National Finals brought what was to be a tough weekend competing against the best 10 & Under boys in the country and even with the boys not managing to win a tie over the weekend, it was a fantastic experience for all involved. The team that played in the National Finals consisted of Alastair McLeod, Olly Cass, Jaiden Khanna and Mark Alexandrov.

CAPTAIN – Jordan Simpson

RESULT – 1st in a group of 6 (Qualification) / 8th in a group of 8 (National Finals)

NORTHUMBERLAND TENNIS AWARDS 2017

AWARD	RECIPIENT
Most improved Junior (Male)	Will Gray
Most Improved Junior (Female)	Elizabeth Graham
Individual Performance of the Year	Abby Kelliher
Education Award of the Year	Kings Priory School
Team of the Year	Under 10 Girls County Cup Team Ladies County Cup Team
Coach of the Year	Jordan Simpson
Junior Volunteer of the Year	Beth Rogan & Grace Hunter
Adult Volunteer of the Year	Gail Mernin
Young Competition Organiser of the Year	Steph Black
Fair Play Award	Hareside Primary School
Gordon Brewis Service to Tennis Award	Margaret Baron
Ann Horler Memorial Salver	Louise Smith

Sport Newcastle Open 2017

<u>Event</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Runner Up</u>
8U Boys Singles	Evan Conway	William O'Hara
9U Mixed Singles	Luke Thompson	Lilly-May Tod
10U Boys Singles	Kouros Anssarizadeh	Oliver Clark
10U Girls Singles	Teodora Prisadnikova	Jocelyn Bui
14U Boys Singles	Matthew Nice	Coe Cartmell
14U Girls Singles	Not completed	Not completed
14U Boys Doubles	Cole Cartmell & Matthew Nice	Samuel Knowles & Sam Player
18U Boys Singles	Luis Navarro	Bailey Dawson
18U Girls Singles	Chante Malo	Robyn Harvey
Men's Singles	Roman Stepanov	Martin Van Zyl
Women's Singles	Kerry Smith	Mary Anderson
Mixed Doubles	Mark McPeake & Emma Wilson	Will Holroyd & Chante Malo
Men's 45 Singles	Mark McPeake	Julian Goodall

The Northumberland Open 2017 Results

Event	Position	Name(s)
Open Mens Singles	Winner	Isaac Stoute
	Runner up	Oscar Cutting
Open Womens Singles	Winner	Emma Wilson
	Runner up	Amy Hoburn
Open Mens Doubles	Winner	Samuel Archer + Henry Beesley
	Runner up	Adam Boba + Chris Whittle
Open Womens Doubles	Winner	Stephanie Booth + Emma Wilson
	Runner up	Grace Dixon + Caitlin Hindmarsh
Open Mixed Doubles	Winner	Adam Boba + Emma Wilson
	Runner up	Henry Beesley + Grace Dixon
55+ Mens Singles	Winner	Michael Eggleston
	Runner up	Mike Sowerby
45+ Mens Singles	Winner	Martin Baldrige
	Runner up	Julian Goodall
40+ Womens Doubles	Winner	Svetlana Freeman-Zakharchenko + Rachel Knowles
	Runner up	Margaret Baron + Joanna Katory
40+ Womens Singles	Winner	Vicki Antipatis
	Runner up	Svetlana Freeman-Zakharchenko
Womens Evening Singles	Winner	Susanna Porter
	Runner up	Cara Todd
Mens Evening Singles	Winner	Michael Seed
	Runner up	Stephen Gilbert
Men's Handicap Singles	Winner	William Ip
	Runner up	Steven Dawson
Men's Handicap Doubles	Winner	Paul Angus + Steven Dawson
	Runner up	Richard Talbot + Samuel Tiplady
Women's Handicap Doubles	Winner	Caroline Gosnay + Rebecca Logan
	Runner up	Sarah Ferguson + Margaret French
Mixed Handicap Doubles	Winner	Paul Angus + Lou Robinson
	Runner up	Philip Griffiths + Margaret French
Family Handicap Doubles	Winner	Philip Givens + Nicola Robson
	Runner up	Joel Taylor-Foley + Mark Taylor
18U Girls Singles	Winner	Stephanie Booth
	Runner up	Lois Page
18U Boys Singles	Winner	Johannus Monday
	Runner up	Lewis Scott
18U Mixed Doubles	Winner	Christopher Jeffery + Lois Page
	Runner up	Harrison Savage + Megan Almond
18U Girls Doubles	Winner	Olivia French + Zarah Mughal
	Runner up	Megan Almond + Chante Malo

18U Boys Doubles	Winner	Joseph Newman-Billington + Callum Todd
	Runner up	Christopher Jeffery + Lewis Scott
16U Girls Singles	Winner	Halle Pringle
	Runner up	Elena Baughman-Saunders
16U Boys Singles	Winner	George Young
	Runner up	Matthew Telford
16U Boys Doubles	Winner	Will Gray + Ronan Lunn
	Runner up	Bailey Dawson + James Hale
14U Girls Singles	Winner	Gemma Filshill
	Runner up	Nina Sherwen
14U Boys Singles	Winner	Ronan Lunn
	Runner up	Gareth Rickaby
14U Girls Doubles	Winner	Gemma Filshill + Nina Sherwen
	Runner up	Grace Hildreth + Cara Todd
14U Boys Doubles	Winner	Joel Gibson + James Hale
	Runner up	Marcus Jeffery + Ronan Lunn
12U Girls Singles	Winner	Abby Kelliher
	Runner up	Elizabeth Graham
12U Boys Singles	Winner	Sam Knowles
	Runner up	Paul Freeman
12U Boys Doubles	Winner	Paul Freeman + Sam Knowles
	Runner up	Adam Armitage + Samuel Earley
10U Girls Singles	Winner	Jessica Hart
	Runner up	Teodora Prisadnikova
10U Boys Singles	Winner	Kouros Anssarizadeh
	Runner up	James Paluzzi
9U Girls Singles	Winner	Lilly-May Tod
	Runner up	Aimee Knowles
9U Boys Singles	Winner	Toby Grant
	Runner up	Evan Conway
8U Girls Singles	Winner	Elisha Lax
	Runner up	Ryma Singh
8U Boys Singles	Winner	William O'Hara
	Runner up	Evan Conway

The Northumberland County Closed 2017

<u>Event</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>
Mens Singles	Winner	Lewis Scott
	Runner up	Christopher Jeffery
18U Girls Doubles	Winner	E. Baughman-Saunders & A. Derbyshire
	Runner up	E. Charlton & K. McLeod
18U Boys Doubles	Winner	C. Jeffery & L. Scott
	Runner up	J. Lee & C. Lunn
18U Boys Singles	Winner	L. Scott
	Runner up	C. Jeffery
16U Boys Doubles	Winner	W. Gray & R. Lunn
	Runner up	M. Mernin & G. Rodda
16U Boys Singles	Winner	W. Gray
	Runner up	R. Lunn
14U Boys Doubles	Winner	M. Nice & G. Rickaby
	Runner up	D. Burn & M. Jeffery
14U Boys Singles	Winner	G. Rickaby
	Runner up	M. Nice
12U Boys Doubles	Winner	P. Freeman & S. Knowles
	Runner up	D. Lapping & S. Player
12U Girls Singles	Winner	A. Kelliher
	Runner up	J. Hart
12U Boys Singles	Winner	S. Knowles
	Runner up	P. Freeman
10U Girls Singles	Winner	J. Hart
	Runner up	A. Knowles
10U Boys Singles	Winner	M. Alexandrov
	Runner up	T. O'Hara
9U Girls Singles	Winner	L-M. Todd
	Runner up	A. Knowles
9U Boys Singles	Winner	R. Webster
	Runner up	B. Beard
8U Boys Singles	Winner	W. O'Hara
	Runner up	M. Markwell
8U Girls Singles (highest placed girl)	Winner	N. Rozavolgyi