



## QUARTERLY BULLETIN

ISSUE 6

DECEMBER 2023

### Top stories in this bulletin



Baby, it's cold outside



All I want for Christmas is you



Last Christmas



Hello everybody. A very Merry Christmas to one and all on behalf of my colleagues on the Management Committee and I and a winter warmer of a welcome to the final Herts Bulletin of 2023.

I'd love to start by saying what a fabulous year it has been, but with so much suffering around - particularly overseas - and so many people in such desperate straits, forgive me for finding it difficult.

Clearly things aren't great for a lot of people over here either and as has unfortunately proved to be the case on a number of occasions, sometimes it's only when it's too late that we realise that someone who we may only know through being at the same tennis club has been battling with their mental health. Nothing I say is going to make a difference to anybody who is struggling I know, but if between us we could keep an even more watchful eye on anybody who may be lonely, particularly at this time of year, that would be hugely appreciated and who knows, even make the difference.

I am sorry...I'm sure that's not what you were expecting from a Christmas Bulletin! Moving on to brighter things then and how lucky are we that when it comes to tennis in Hertfordshire, there are plenty of bright lights to be found. In fact this year has been a cracker!

I've been instructed to save most of the good stuff for this year's annual Newsletter, which will be issued in February to coincide with the new timing for the AGM, but I think you'll find one or two things that may bring you some festive cheer inside, including the first (and no doubt last) Herts Tennis Christmas quiz. Prizes are up for grabs for the first 3 to be pulled out of the hat...as long as the answers are correct!

Many thanks as always to those of you who receive the Bulletin directly for sharing it with as many people as possible at your venue, in particular anybody who volunteers in any way, however big or small.

Have a wonderful end to the year and a very happy and healthy 2024!

*Lee Evans*

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### ***Dates for your diary***

- Venue Forum (postponed from December) – Date and format to be confirmed
- Herts Tennis AGM – 7th March 2024, time to be confirmed.
- Saturday 11 May 2024 Save the Date! The National Girls Schools Doubles Tournament returns to Queenswood school with 14U, 16U and 18U events open to girls teams from all schools. Keen players should remind their teachers to save the date with entry forms for completion by your school coming out in March 2024. If you would like any further information please email [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com)

### ***Tennis Volunteer Community.***

- Branding and Marketing at your club Q&A, 23rd January, 7pm
- Q&A with the LTA Participation Director, Olly Scadgell, 20th February, 2pm and 7pm
- ‘Membership and Renewals’ Virtual Coffee Session, 12th March, 2pm and 7pm

For more information on all of the Tennis Volunteer Community events and to register, please go to <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TennisCommunitiesHub> or contact Simon Spalter at [tennis@eceltd.co.uk](mailto:tennis@eceltd.co.uk)

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## **Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association becomes Hertfordshire LTA Ltd.**

This will be the Association’s last Christmas as the Hertfordshire Lawn Tennis Association. Yes, with effect from 1 January 2024, the old Association is ceasing to trade and tennis in the county will be delivered by Hertfordshire LTA Ltd. The move was approved by you, our members, at an EGM on 28th June this year and the Board of the LTA has recently approved the new entity becoming a member of the LTA. The transition is in line with the ongoing governance changes at the LTA.

Hertfordshire LTA Ltd will continue to operate from our offices at Gosling Sports Park and there are no changes to the Management Committee of 'Herts Tennis', as we tend to call ourselves and be known these days.

## Double celebration at Orchard

There was a double whammy of happiness at Orchard Tennis Club long before Santa arrives at Christmas.

The Blakemere Road-based tennis club in Welwyn Garden City was delighted to open its newly re-surfaced tennis courts as it held its annual charity tournament.

It was a soft launch for the new blue, synthetic grass courts with a grand opening scheduled to take place at the club's open family fun day in April.

Esteemed veteran life members, Rae Walter and Sue Neville, had the honour of cutting the ribbon, then excited players took to the courts to compete on the new blue TigerTurf courts.

Carole and I were delighted to have been invited to admire the transformation and congratulate the sub-committee who helped make it all happen. Oh and to sample some of the lovely fare on offer on the day of course!

The event was very well supported despite freezing temperatures, which the change of court surface colour from green to blue seemed to complement beautifully.

Four teams competed enthusiastically for the annual Stuart West Charity Trophy, a tournament set up 12 years ago in memory of a hugely popular and active club member. Three of the teams were captained by members of the West family, Stuart's wife Sue and his children, James and Danielle and after a full-on day of competitive tennis, it was James' green team that emerged victorious, winning by just two games.

Members dug deep throughout the afternoon for the nominated charity, Blue Cross - an animal welfare charity with a re-homing centre in Kimpton - with a barbecue, cake stall and raffle adding to the occasion.

The total from all fundraising reached an amazing £535 and event organiser and club president, Dave Wesson, was thrilled with how everything went off. Dave said: "It's a pleasure to arrange the tournament and see our members come together and raise much-needed funds for excellent charitable causes. This year, our members played in bitterly cold weather, which is a sign of their commitment to both our great club and a very worthwhile cause."

*\* With thanks to the Welwyn Hatfield Times*



Life members Rae Walter and Sue Neville cut the ribbon



The Stuart West Trophy winning team



The players take to the court for a pre-tournament photo

## Safeguarding and Welfare Officer Update



A huge thank you to all that volunteer their time in the Welfare Officer Role, from all of us at Herts Tennis. Please see the last LTA Newsletter of the year summarising some of the key activities by clicking on this link: <https://bit.ly/3vaUu65>

We plan to hold further networking and development events for Welfare Officers in the new year, some face to face and some online, so please let me know if you are interested in hosting one of these in February, June or October, dates and times to be agreed.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year

*Tessa*

County Safeguarding Officer  
csohertfordshire@gmail.com

*\*Photo courtesy of the LTA*

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## Christmas greetings from the LTA



A huge thank you to tennis volunteers everywhere from Sandi Procter, LTA President, and Scott Lloyd, LTA Chief Executive. Please view their Christmas message [here](#)

## Meet Janet Corrie



We'd like you to get to know us better, so in bulletins from now on we're going to focus on a different member of the Management Committee. Under the spotlight today is Janet Corrie who leads us magnificently on Performance.

*Have you always been a Herts girl?*

Since I was 10

*You've been a member at a few of our clubs haven't you?*

Yes. Rickmansworth, West Herts and Harpenden.

*Is the rumour that you first met your husband (Martin) at one of our clubs true?*

How did you know that! Yes, at West Herts in 1970.

*You could say you are part of a tennis family couldn't you?*

I guess you could! Martin has been heavily involved in tennis, not just in Herts but also at the LTA and the ITF and our three boys, David, Ed and Tom, have had very successful and hugely enjoyable times playing the game.

*Have you represented the county?*

I have indeed. I've played for every one of our County teams from 18U to O65.

*How and when did you first get involved with Herts Tennis/the Management Committee?*

After playing for the Ladies County team for 12 years, I then captained the Ladies for 12 years, then the O35 team for 15 years and have been involved with Herts' performance either professionally or as a volunteer for nearly 30 years.

*What's been your proudest moment or moments in tennis?*

Classic reply to this would be there have been soooo many! Most of my favourites involve my captaincy with Jenny Thomas and seeing players achieve results they never thought they could. Sarah Donovan and Caroline Herbert put us through it many times, but always with a smile on their faces. A special result was when Ed and David beat Jamie Murray and partner at Eastbourne to beat the North of Scotland with Andy (Murray) in their team. Then there was Herts winning the County Race in 2017. Various Lionel Cox winning title weekends out of the 30 I've been at. Ed being on the Davis Cup bench and playing at Queens and Wimbledon. Tom coaching Joe Salisbury and helping him get to No 1 in the world at Doubles and being in his box at Wimbledon and around the world. My own might be winning the Herts 18U champs played at Harpenden in those days and playing Sue Barker on Centre Court at Eastbourne in the U18 Nationals (I came 2nd there!).

Oh and how's about sleeping overnight in Church Road to get a ticket for Wimbledon at the age of 16, then 46 years later sitting in the front row of the Royal Box every day with your hubbie who is President of the LTA! Oh yes and there's been a few County and Harpenden mixed titles that seem to have come our way over the years too. I am close to my partner (still am!).

*Toughest opponent?*

They have all been tough for me but hey I do like the challenge!

*Do you play any other sports?*

I played hockey at school and for the county, specialised in gym and dance at Bedford PE College and now enjoy playing Golf and Padel

*Favourite TV programme?*

I don't have much time for TV, but do love a strictly evening!

*Favourite holiday destination?*

Texas to see David and Austin (David's son) and Portugal where we hope to spend more time.

*Favourite dinner date?*

With all the family.

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## Fancy a run out in the New Year?

A big friend of ours at Herts Tennis, Jenny Stokes from St Albans LTC, has come to us with a fun suggestion on how we could get our competitive juices flowing in the New Year and at the same time hopefully make some additional funding to help support some of our performance players who are just starting their journey and would benefit from a helping hand.

Before we run it by venues a little more formally we thought we'd give you an early taster to see if it's something you might like. Here's the idea.

Which Herts club has the fastest 5k runners? Let's find out with a virtual 5k race post Christmas.

- Entry fee: £15 per runner.
- Leaderboard provided.
- Date: Likely to be in February 2024.
- Option to link with your running app eg. Strava to submit your result.
- Use your own regular route, preferred route or even just hit the treadmill. Only the fastest time will count towards your CLUB's result and there will be prizes.

So which club has the fastest feet? Are they the same as the as the Herts League winners?

Put yourself in post Christmas 'need to do some exercise' mode and let us know if you think your venue would pick up the baton and run with it so to speak. Drop us a 'Yes' or 'No' at the usual [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) mailbox.

## Townsend and Rickmansworth shine at this year's Harris Cup Finals

A bumper crowd were treated to scintillating tennis and tasty fare as they bathed in the early October sunshine at Townsend LTC for the conclusion of this year's Harris Cup Men's and Ladies competitions. Named in honour of two of the County's greatest ever servants to tennis, John and Val Harris, the Harris Cup is the county's prestigious 2 pair knockout cup event.

The Ladies final saw the home favourites and holders take on local rivals St Albans, who had shown their credentials having recently been crowned Herts League champions for the second year in a row.

St Albans will undoubtedly be back, but on this occasion it was the Townsend Ladies who wouldn't be denied, producing tennis of real quality to continue the club's centenary celebrations and ensure The Harris Cup would reside in the club's trophy cabinet for at least another year.

The Men's final that followed was a hugely entertaining clash between two teams who clearly have bright futures ahead. Townsend and Rickmansworth had both beaten more fancied opponents on their way to the final and it was easy to see why.

The Townsend team played beautiful tennis to delight the home crowd, but urged on by a large and raucous bunch of travelling supporters led by Men's Captain Mark O'Brien, it was Rickmansworth who roared their way to their first Herts title since winning the Herts League in 1998.

Huge thanks to all four teams for treating the lucky spectators to some superb tennis and to Townsend and its members for being such welcoming hosts.



**The triumphant Townsend Ladies team**



**The Men's finalists (Rickmansworth on the left)**



**The Ladies Runners-Up, St Albans**

## Herts in Top 3 Nationally

What a wonderful year it has been for our fabulous players, captains, coaches and parents.

Herts Tennis continues to shine in County Tennis and this is reflected in the 2023 LTA County Cup Race where we finished third nationally! This race includes the team results of all our junior teams and adult teams up to O35. This is a fantastic achievement and everyone involved should be extremely proud of their contribution!

For details of the points tally follow the link -

<https://www.lta.org.uk/4adcbb/siteassets/compete/adult/file/2023.county-cup-race-leaderboard---without-seniors-27.11.2023.pdf>

Our Men's and Ladies teams achieved great results at both the Summer and Winter County cups, with the Ladies the Summer National Champions for an amazing 4th year running and the Men Runners up.

In the Winter, the Men have gained promotion back to Group 1, with the Ladies missing out on promotion to Group 1 by just one tie-break! Our O35s teams will be making a charge for promotion to Group 1 in 2024.

As we approach the end of 2023 everybody at Herts Tennis would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to our team of Performance Coaches and Captains for your commitment, professionalism and hard work in delivering County training, County teams and ongoing support in developing our wonderful crop of players! And to all our players and parents, thank you and well done for your fantastic efforts representing Hertfordshire with pride.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to more fun and successful times with the Herts family in 2024.

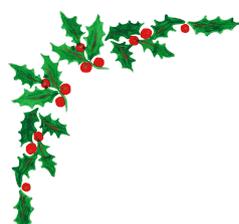
*Article pinched from a message that our wonderful performance manager, Teresa Lilley has sent to say thank you to her team of captains and coaches. Thanks Teresa!*



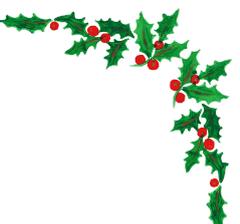
**Herts Ladies - Summer County Cup national champions**



**Herts Men's Winter County Cup team promoted to group 1**



## The Fezzipeg Herts Tennis Christmas Quiz



Here you go. Nine short questions to mull over with your Christmas Pud. Fortunately for us all, I couldn't make it to ten.

1. Who is the LTA Councillor (and from 1st January, an LTA Board Member no less!) for us in Hertfordshire?
2. Who was Prime Minister when the Herts League was first played?
  - a) Clement Attlee
  - b) Boris Johnson
  - c) Liz Truss
3. Who played the arch baddie in the classic Christmas Die Hard film? Oh and a bonus point's available for the character's name.
4. Which county has been the most successful at the Summer County Cup since our Men won the first of their titles in 2007?
  - a) The Isle of Man
  - b) Rutland
  - c) Hertfordshire
5. Our former Men's Captain, Jeff Wayne, is perhaps even more well known for his stage show and musical version of The War of the Worlds. What does he say the odds are of Earth being invaded from Mars?
6. Which club won the Harris Cup's Ladies competition in 2022?
7. Are sprouts?
  - a) just for Christmas
  - b) for any time
  - c) wouldn't touch them with a barge pole
8. Who were the last 2 Herts Tennis Presidents before I was forced into the role? Both are still alive and if you can tell me which football club either of them supports another bonus point's on offer.
9. Which is the best Christmas song?

Answers on a postcard (that line's gone in for my Mum) or by email to [hertstennis@gmail.com](mailto:hertstennis@gmail.com) including your name and the name of your club. The prize draw will be held in the first week of January.

*Waiver. The quiz master's decision is final and may even be binding. No dispute over answers will be entertained (particularly to Q7 and Q9) unless it's a pretty good one*