

Cambridgeshire Tennis Annual General Meeting

Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm

The Pavilion, Wilberforce Road Sports Ground, Cambridge CB3 9AD

- Introductions, opening remarks and confirmation that the meeting is quorate (Tim Arthur, Chair)
- Apologies for Absence (Tim Arthur)
- Minutes of the AGM of 21st March 2023 (Tim Arthur)
- Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts 2022-2023 (Arif Kibria, Treasurer)
- Other Annual Reports and presentations: All reports have been circulated in advance of the meeting and will be taken as read – questions welcome.
 - Chair's comments on matters impacting on County (Tim Arthur)
 - LTA Councillor's presentation reviewing LTA 2018-23 Strategy (Julie Wych)
 - Performance Committee Reports (Claire Lea, Sue Rich and Tisha Hug)
- Election of Members of the Management Committee of Cambridgeshire Tennis:
 - County Chair – Caroline Thornton
 - County Secretary – Helen Hansgate
 - County Treasurer – Arif Kibria
 - Chair of Performance Committee – Mark Goodman
 - Chair of Participation Committee – Bill Skead
 - County Safeguarding Officer – Suzanne Pattinson
 - Women and Young People - Vacant
 - Steve Shaw – Inclusion Officer
 - Pippa Scotcher – GDPR Officer
 - LTA Councillor – Julie Wych
 - That Ailsa Weir Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Tennis League be elected to the Management Committee

Note: Sue Rich as Junior Teams Manager attends all Management Committee meetings

END OF THE AGM

LTA Tennis Awards: Presentation to County Award Winners

County Awards: Presentation to Cambridgeshire Tennis Award Winners

Presentation to Committee Volunteers

Light refreshments and a chance to network

Report for the Cambridgeshire Tennis AGM Thursday 15th February 2024 from The Chair of Cambridgeshire Tennis and the LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire

Tim Arthur (Chair) and Julie Wych (Councillor) report to the 2024 AGM outlining priorities and achievements in 2023 and plans for the year ahead.

Tim Arthur: Chair of LTA Cambridgeshire Tennis

The role of the Chair is appointed at the County AGM on an annual basis. The main duty is to co-ordinate the development of tennis in the County through chairing the main committee of volunteers and supervising several sub-committees which focus on key areas. The sub-committees cover Participation, Performance, Leagues and Finance & Resources (including fundraising) to improve our governance.

I would like to welcome Caroline Thornton, my proposed successor, to the meeting. Many of you will have met Caroline on the court. She is a county seniors player who has captained county teams successfully and is the current Ladies Captain at Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club. Off the court, Caroline has held a number of senior roles in marketing and analytics over the course of her career, most recently at AstraZeneca, so brings a wealth of leadership experience and tennis knowledge to the role. I think Caroline will do an excellent job for the County and I strongly recommend we all support her.

I would like to thank Julie Wych for all her excellent work as our Councillor. Julie has fully embraced her role and has maintained our profile at the LTA. It was fantastic to see Julie win an LTA value award for Excellence at the end of her first year.

During the year we appointed Claire Norman as our County Pathway Manager, a part time role focusing on liaising with head coaches and tennis venues to encourage players into County tennis. Claire is always available to talk to venues about the competitive tennis landscapes and has made an excellent start to her tenure. Our admin team of Lucy Ranner and Lisa Clarke have done an excellent job again this year and I am sure many of you will have had dealings with them. I would like to thank them for all their hard work.

As we have discussed for several years, one of the major LTA initiatives is around Corporate Governance, and we have determined that our current County structure as an unincorporated entity is no longer appropriate. We have made slow progress on this project, but we are moving to becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and may well call an EGM to ratify the process once everything is in place. This proposed change is primarily to ensure limited liability applies to County Officers, County Committees and Member venues.

- *Performance Review:* As detailed in the performance report we enjoyed a lot of success in many areas during the past year. Our seventh-place finish in the County Race is our best ever. I would like to thank Sue Rich and all the coaches and captains who are supporting the County teams. The Festival of Tennis (formerly known as the County Closed) was again held in August with 252 players competing. In addition to



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the County Champions being crowned across all the age groups. a number of fun events are run. Please feel free to visit to watch some high-class tennis and enjoy some fantastic cakes later this year.

Claire Lee is moving away from the County and is therefore stepping down as Chair of the Performance Committee. I would like to thank Claire for all her hard work – she has been a great sounding board to me as Chair. Mark Goodman, who many of you will know as one of the founders of Top Spin Tennis, has been nominated to take on this role. Mark joined the Committee this year and is keen to expand the disability element of performance.

A huge vote of thanks to Tisha Hug who is stepping down as our Seniors County Organiser after many years of excellent service to the county. Tisha has been outstanding at championing tennis for the over 30s within our County. I am pleased to report that Mark Sanders has agreed to take on this role.

The majority of the coaches operating in Cambridgeshire meet on a regular basis to coordinate teams and training – do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information on this or any other aspect of county teams or training; I would ask your coaches whether they participate in these activities.

- *Cambridgeshire Leagues:* The Cambridgeshire Leagues continue to flourish under the guidance of League Secretary Ailsa Weir and her subcommittee of helpers. Some 462 teams played in the various leagues organised in 2023. At the recent League AGM it was agreed that results would be recorded to count towards World Tennis Numbers in the first division and hopefully this will roll out to the other divisions shortly. I would like to thank Ailsa, the League committee and James Strachan who does a lot of scheduling work in the background.
- *Finance and Resources:* The finance report presented is for the 15 months ended 31st December 2023 as approved at last year's AGM. We received our first significant new grant from the LTA of £65,000 during this period and this gives us better financial security to plan the way forward. The grant is allocated to several areas to ensure the counties and LTA remain aligned in objectives which we fully support as an executive team. Mark Sanders and Nick Tait had another excellent year raising sponsorship for the county and we are grateful for their efforts. The County is still able to offer some limited grant support for facilities improvements although we are now favoring interest free loans rather than grants. We continue to cover the costs of Steve Goswell in seeking third party grants which gives the most value to our Clubs from our limited resources. We also still offer funding to support participation initiatives through the Participation Committee, chaired by Bill Skead. Bill has presented a separate report.



- *Safeguarding and registration:* More Clubs have been visited by the central LTA safeguarding team who alongside our county safeguarding officer, Suzanne Pattinson, have provided excellent support and advice to many of us. It is critical that our venues offer a safe and welcoming environment to all, especially children and vulnerable adults. I would like to remind you all to check your safeguarding officer is current with DBS checks and training well in advance of registration. We are always on hand to help.
- *Participation (including Disability Tennis activities):* The participation committee chaired by Bill Skead does an excellent job of reaching out to venues. The first in-person venue forum for several years was held in October and feedback was positive. Feel free to suggest topics you would like covered at future events and also to ask Bill about the mentoring scheme he operates. Steve Shaw continues to do an excellent job in coordinating disability activities in the county and we would like to acknowledge the extensive support we receive from the Richard Darton Tennis Foundation. If anyone would like further information or wish to help out in these rewarding activities, please contact Steve Shaw via our County office.
- *Communications:* Ade Bates continues to improve communication of counties and national activities – I encourage you all to sign up to our social media platforms to follow our team and all major tennis related announcements.
- *Padel:* Cambridgeshire currently does not have any padel courts and this is something we are working hard to rectify. Several local golf clubs have obtained permission to build courts and we believe the courts at Cambridge Regional College will be completed in 2024.
- *LTA Tennis Awards:* Thank you to all of you who submitted award nominations – while the nominations were again up this year it would be great if more people acknowledged the hard work of the tennis community in the county. This year's winners will be announced at the AGM.
- *Management Committee and Sub-Committee Help:* We continue to seek volunteers to work with us either as part of the main executive team or on one of our sub-committees outlined above. Lauri Nigri is stepping down as our Women's and Girls officer and I would like to thank Laura for all her work and I am pleased that she is remaining as our Ladies Captain. **For 2024, we are especially keen to hear from anyone who might like to get involved and help us with:**
 - **IT and systems – helping to bring our antiquated system into the modern age by setting us up with improved email and data collaboration tools.**
 - **Women and girls - helping us encourage and promote female participation and competition in tennis. Helping us ensure that female players stay in the game and enjoy competing.**



- **Young people - helping us encourage and promote young player participation and competition in tennis. Helping us ensure that these players stay in the game and enjoy competing.**

If any of you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to talk to any one of our current volunteers.

I would like to conclude by thanking everyone who has supported me during my time as Chair. It is very rewarding working with the County team and I would encourage anyone interested to get involved – I firmly believe that more volunteers doing small roles is the sustainable way forward.

Julie Wych: LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire

The role of LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire is appointed by the Management Committee on a three yearly basis and subject to performance review by national LTA. 2023 was my first year in the role where the aim is to represent the County's venues, volunteers, and coaches at both regional and national meetings. In addition, I am involved in the shaping and reviewing of strategy at national and regional level prior to implementation; with 2023 the final year of the 2019-2023, the latter part of 2023 involved our input into the upcoming 2024-26 LTA Strategy.

- 1. Attendance:** During 2023 I attended all meetings within each of the four Meeting Cycles: Council, Regional Forums and Cambridgeshire Management Committee (MC) meetings. Throughout 2023 I sat on the Development Tennis Advisory Group (DTAG) for County Governance, Funding and Inclusion. I also attended a Tennis Volunteer Community (TVC) Event at the National Tennis Centre where volunteers from across the country had the opportunity to discuss challenges within their county with LTA colleagues and Councillors as well as play tennis and padel.
- 2. Major National Matters:** At the AGM I will present a review of 2023 from a national perspective. The LTA has completed its final year of a 5-year strategic plan (2019-23) with the overall vision to see 'Tennis Opened Up'. Seven strategic pillars sat underneath the vision and frame everything the LTA is doing: Visibility, Innovation, Investment, Accessibility, Engagement, Performance and Leadership. This 5-year strategic plan was in response to a major review of the tennis landscape, the findings were that participation had seen a downward trajectory for some 10 years; Sport England's research showed that 2015/16 levels or participation were considerably below those seen in 2005/6. Tennis was seen as a traditional, elitist sport; it was difficult to access, difficult to play - a sport for the few, not the many. Importantly tennis was not seen as an inclusive sport. On the elite side of the sport, when Andy Murray won Wimbledon in 2013, he was the only British man in the top 200 in the World. The vision 'Tennis Opened Up' has aimed to make tennis more relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. I will share some brief updates on key areas where we are at the end of 2023 as well as a look ahead to 2024 and the next 2024-26 LTA Strategy.
- 3. 2018-23 in Review:** There is strong evidence that the LTA strategy 2019-23 is working. Despite the pandemic, there has been an increase in the fan base and the decline in overall participation has been reversed. New forms of the sport, such as Padel have been championed and are seeing growth in the number of courts and player base. Elite players



have had some major success, especially in wheelchair tennis. In 2018, the LTA set three high-level objectives:

Fans: An increase in fan engagement can be measured in different ways: Number of people on the LTA database is up from 580,000 in 2019 to 1.5m today; over £5.2m worth of ticketing revenue in 2023 for the major events has been generated and there has been an increase of 275% in lta.org.uk's Google first page rankings compared to 2019. The LTA feels they know their fan base better than ever and engage with them in a more personal way, driving 212k people to pick up a racket and play tennis in the past year.

Tennis Participation: The five-year strategic plan had key targets to get more people playing tennis more often. Over 5.5 million adults are now playing annually, over 2.5 million adults playing monthly and over 700,000 children playing weekly. There has been growth of 43% in adult annual participation since December 2018. Tennis is also one of the few sports to have increased children's participation numbers compared to 2018/19. Within Cambridgeshire, Bill Skead, our Participation Committee Chair, has set-up a Club Liaison initiative that involves a group of volunteers who are in contact with venues, so we get a feel of what clubs want and how county can assist; the aim is to have a more personal link between county and clubs with two-way communication. Please contact Bill (billskead1@tiscali.co.uk) if you would like more information.

Performance: The Performance Pathway developed and implemented across GB. There is a new Performance Competitions Calendar that has doubled the number of international events held in Great Britain. 9 different British Players are in the ATP / WTA top 100 in 2023 with World number 1 rankings in Doubles (Neal Skupski) and Men's Wheelchair (Alfie Hewett), with 4 medals at 2020 Paralympic Games and 6 Wheelchair Grand Slam titles in 2023 alone. The National Tennis Centre has been upgraded and improved and is now one of only three ITF gold level training centres in the world.

LTA Projects: Here is a brief overview and update on progress made on many of the projects carried out:

- **Safeguarding strategy:** Delivery of Safeguarding Awareness Week occurred in October '23 in support of the NSPCC Keeping your Child Safe in Sport Week. Workshops and sessions provided practical tips and examples to support volunteers in their role; ongoing availability of recorded sessions can be found here <https://www.lta.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-week/>. The Young Persons Welfare Ambassador scheme was initiated in May '23 to enable young people's voices to be heard in discussions around safeguarding. Young Persons Welfare Ambassadors (YPWA) are young people aged 12-24 who play an important role in safeguarding at LTA registered venues. An ambassador's role is both to provide a young person's voice and perspective to promote safeguarding and welfare at their venues, if you know of anyone who would be interested in becoming a YPWA, please contact our County Safeguarding Officer, Suzanne Pattinson (safeguarding@cambslta.org.uk).
- **Padel Tennis:** Over 350 courts across the UK, the first junior performance camp completed in Dec 2023. More female events taking place and women's participation in competition up by 73% last year. More competitions now available across the whole country and all age groups. It will be great to see padel courts in



Cambridgeshire during the upcoming 3-year strategic cycle. Teresa Catlin, Manager of Cambridge LTC, is our Padel Ambassador in Cambridgeshire.

- **Sustainability Plan:** Environmental Sustainability information can be found on the Venue Support Toolkit, from information on how venues can be more sustainable, webinars and useful resources. The LTA also partnered with Pledgeball Leagues, where clubs and individuals compete by making simple pledges around everyday actions to reduce their carbon footprint. It was great to see Cambridgeshire Club 10is Academy come 3rd in Round 1 of the league.
- **Inclusion Strategy:** The LTA launched their three-year Inclusion Strategy in 2022, the strategy has the vision of 'Tennis Opened Up' at its heart, ensuring that tennis is as inclusive as possible, and that anyone and everyone has the opportunity to pick up a racket. It was a key priority in 2023 for the DTAG (working group) to develop an ED&I plan that can be implemented across all County and Island Associations in 2023. An ED&I plan is central to the vision 'Tennis Opened Up' and a requirement for compliance with Governance Framework; it also supports the LTA's Inclusion Programmes Open Court, Serves and Coach Diversity. Guidance has now been communicated to all Associations and we are in the process of developing our ED&I plan in Cambridgeshire; it will be available on our website in the coming months. Steve Shaw, our County Inclusion Officer (stevecshaw@btinternet.com), is active in many forms of inclusion across the county, so please do contact him if you need any information on our ED&I plan or inclusion within your venue. Other notable inclusion achievements nationally include:
 - Launch of the Open for All Plan setting out how the LTA are going to continue being a world leader in opening up tennis to disabled people.
 - Unveiling a major new campaign to inspire and engage children primarily aged 4-11 to play tennis – 'The LTA Tennisables'.
 - Launching a partnership with Amazon Prime – Prime Video LTA Youth Girls – to get more girls playing tennis.
 - Hosting the inaugural Tennis Black List in June '23.
 - Continuing to work with Pride in Tennis, the independent LGBTQ+ tennis network, to make our sport more welcoming for LGBTQ+ communities, by using the LTA Major Events to celebrate Pride month.
- **Coach Development Plan:** The 2021-23 LTA Coach Development Plan understands that coaches are at the heart of British Tennis and most often are the first experience players have with tennis when they step on a court. The plan set out to deliver 6 goals across three areas: Qualifications, CPD & Learning, Engagement & Support. More information regarding the plan can be found at <https://www.lta.org.uk/roles-and-venues/coaches/coach-development-plan/>.
- **LTA Tennis Foundation:** The LTA Tennis Foundation (formed when two existing charities, the Tennis Foundation and The LTA Trust, merged) was officially launched in June 2022. The LTA TF is an integral part of the Parks Project as well as partnering with individuals and organisations to improve lives through tennis, in 2023 alone, the LTA TF provided £1.5m grants to fund projects, more details can be found here <https://www.lta.org.uk/what-we-do/governance/lta-tennis-foundation/>.
- **Parks Project:** The Park Tennis Project is a nationwide investment by the UK Government and LTA Tennis Foundation, delivered by the LTA and working with Local Authorities. Refurbishing public tennis courts to deliver the vision of 'Tennis Opened Up', in 2023 alone, 536 projects approved, 1761 courts completed. There are 2.15M adult park players and 1.23M child park players. Of these players, 41% are



female, 35% from C2DE socio-economic group and 15% who have a disability or long-term health condition.

- *County Governance Reform:* 2023 saw the first year of the new funding model for County and Island Associations and development of the new Governance Assessment. I am pleased to say that Cambridgeshire was part of the Governance Assessment Pilot; helping shape a supportive and manageable assessment process for County and Island Associations.
- *Digital Transformation:* Over the 5-year strategy cycle, about £9 million has been invested in the digital strategy. The LTA Play booking platform launched in October 2022, it was a key priority for 2023 and now 1241 venues are on LTA Play enabling easy access booking courts and coaching.
- *LTA Youth:* LTA Youth encompasses delivery of tennis via LTA Youth Go! Prime Video LTA Youth Girls and LTA Youth Recognised Venues started to come online in Jan 2023. In 2023, 17,628 teachers trained as part of the LTA Youth Schools programme, all projects bringing tennis to a wider and inclusive audience of young players.

2024 Plans: The vision of Tennis Opened Up has worked and is working. The next 3 years will continue with this work and refining focus: there will be evolution and not revolution. At the time of writing, the LTA will be arranging more briefings on the new strategy, to bring you up to speed with plans for the next business cycle.

Summary: I have enjoyed my first year in the role as LTA Councillor representing Cambridgeshire Tennis Management Committee as well as venues, volunteers, coaches and staff. **Please contact me if you have any thoughts on aspects of LTA policy or delivery that you would like me to take up with the relevant personnel at regional or national level (julie.wych@lta.org.uk).** I would like to thank everyone on the Cambridgeshire Tennis Management Committee and the LTA Regional Team for their help and advice in my first year as Councillor, I'd like to wish Claire and Laura all the very best as they step down from the committee and thank them for their contribution. Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks for the support that Tim has given me in 2023, he has been a great sounding board and the hours he has given Cambridgeshire Tennis over the years should not be underestimated. I very much look forward to working with Caroline, hopefully we can continue to move Cambridgeshire Tennis forward for the benefit and enjoyment of everyone involved in tennis in the County.

Finally, we would both like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who work tirelessly within the county, especially those who have helped by serving in the many key County roles.

Tim Arthur and Julie Wych



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Performance Committee Report Cambridgeshire LTA AGM 2024

Thank you:

Many people contributed to Cambridgeshire's fantastic 7th place in the LTA County Cup Race 2023 (coming behind Surrey, Yorkshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Cheshire, Middlesex). This is our strongest finish ever.

Sue Rich, our Junior Teams Manager reports on some excellent results from Cambridgeshire's juniors and Tisha Hug does the same for our senior players in her last report as Senior County Officer. Report from our Ladies' Captain, Laura Nigri and Chris Little our Men's Captain give us a great flavour of County Week and Winter County Cup. Many thanks to all of them for their hard work arranging training sessions, making team selections, sorting out logistics, writing up match reports, recording results and captaining their teams during matches.

A particular thanks goes to Sue for her unstinting commitment to driving our juniors' performance and providing our future adult County players. This is a job she couldn't do without the support of all our junior teams' captains, the coaches who support our County training and those who work with our juniors in their clubs and through the performance programme run by Hamid Hejazi and his team at Over & In and Claire Norman our Club County Pathway Manager. None of our junior performance would be possible without the support of our players' parents – thank you. To help us give Cambridgeshire Juniors the best experience we can, the following parents have joined a parents' group to support the Performance Committee: Ajay Kumar, David Millwood, Emilie Lallemand, Jing Su, Nicole Kaneider-Kaser and Polly Voss. Thanks go to them for their support. If you would like to contact them their email address is: parents@cambslta.org.uk

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Performance Committee for their support and contribution during the year: Tim Arthur, Mark Goodman Hamid Hejazi, Tisha Hug, Chris Little, Laura Nigri, Jon Rademeyer and Sue Rich. A special thanks goes to Tisha who stepped down as our Seniors County Officer at the end of 2023 after 45 years of sterling service. Thank you Tisha! Mark Sanders has taken up Tisha's mantle. Mark Goodman re-joined the performance committee in the summer and is taking the lead on Disability Performance Tennis. Mark Goodman is also taking over as Chair of the Performance Committee following my move to the South West.

Claire Lea

Chair of the Performance Committee



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Junior Team Manager's report for Cambs AGM 2024

The Cambs juniors have had another good year with lots of activity in all the County Cup events and some good successes. Pride of place goes to the younger age groups. The 11 and under boys came fourth overall in the National Finals. The 10 and under boys came second in the North Finals. The 10 and under girls came second in the South Finals. The 9 and under girls won their group and then the North Finals in Loughborough and the boys won their group and finished fourth overall. In the 8 and under County Cup held at Hills Road in April the boys' 'A' team came first and the 'B' team second and the girls 'A' team first and 'B' team fourth. The 18 and under boys got promoted to group 2. The 12 and under boys won their area stage group in September.

County Cup Race 2023

Cambridgeshire finished 7th overall which is their best finish ever – many congratulations to the players and coaches who helped with this.

Please see the link below to follow how the teams did in each age group.

[2023.county-cup-race-leaderboard---without-seniors-27.11.2023.pdf \(lta.org.uk\)](https://www.lta.org.uk/2023-county-cup-race-leaderboard---without-seniors-27.11.2023.pdf)

The following is a summary of the activities.

County training

This happens on a regular basis at Hills Road and some of the 8 and unders training at Huntingdon on most weekends during the winter and slightly less in the summer term but all building up to the various County Cup age groups. Thanks to all the coaches who help out with this. The 12/14 and under-age groups have 10 training sessions a year: 16 and 18 and unders 3 sessions and then the 9 and 10 and unders up to 24 sessions during the year. Adding extra sessions has certainly benefitted the 8/9 and 10 and unders.

18 and under County Cup 3rd to 5th March 2023

The girls' team of Izzy Havard, Gabi Zailer-Fletcher, Millie Hansgate, Sophie Johnstone, Ellie Barker, Mia Jimenez, May Havard and Allegra Hodson played in group 3a at Hills Road over the weekend of 3rd to 5th March. They came so close to getting promoted just losing two tight three setters and had a great weekend with lots of local support as well. They beat Hampshire and Isle of Wight 8/1, beat Nottinghamshire 6/3 and then narrowly lost to Suffolk 5/3 to finish second in the group.

The boys team of Seth Newman, Seth Briggs Williams, Christof, Jonny Cross, Rapha Tan, Zach Tabaczynski, Ryan Parkins, Marton Howe got promoted to Group 2 with wins over East of Scotland 5/4, Sussex 9/0 and Hampshire & Isle of Wight 5/2.

14 and under County Cup 29th and 30th April 2023

The boys played in Oxford and were captained by CJ and the girls played in Lincoln. We had a few late changes and had to play one or two younger players in older age groups. Despite this the boys came a very creditable second in their group. The girls came third. Overall, a good effort from this age group.



12 and under County Cup 16th and 17th September 2023

The Cambridgeshire boys fielded the team of Martin Xu, Beau Martinez-McCune, Jethro Wong, Yanyi Xiong and Victor Fletcher travelled to Easton in Norfolk and beat Berkshire 5/1, beat Bedfordshire 5/1, beat Oxfordshire 3/1 and were 3/1 up against Norfolk and so won their group.

The girls' team of Aditi Sharma, Manami Bowditch, Isabella Barker, Natasha Gregson and Lillian Ke travelled to Witney in Oxfordshire. They lost 2/4 to Bucks, drew with Norfolk (but lost the shoot-out), lost 0/4 to a strong Sussex team and were 2/1 up against Oxfordshire when rain abandoned play. They competed well and two of the girls were quite young to be playing in the team.

Girls 11 and under County Cup Report 17/18 June 2023

The girls' team of Manami Bowditch, Alejandra Schofield, Isabella Barker, Megann Coliof and Lillian Ke travelled to Chichester to play in the group play offs on the 17th and 18th June. They faced tough opposition from Sussex, South Wales and Hertfordshire. They beat Sussex on a shoot-out; lost 2/4 to South Wales and beat Herts in a shoot-out and finished second in the play-off group.

11 and under Boys County Cup Finals 7th to 9th July Wrexham.

The Boys Team of Beau Martinez-McCune, Jethro Hau Yan Wong, Yanyi Xiong, Louis Garner, Giovanni Zamuner and Ajax Millwood travelled to Wrexham over the weekend of the 7th 8th and 9th July to play in the 11 and under County Cup National Finals. The Boys had a fantastic weekend of tennis where we came 4th!

They beat Sussex on a shoot-out after being 2/0 down in matches. Lost 2/4 to Surrey and beat West of Scotland 5/1 and lost 2/4 to Yorkshire. It was a great weekend.

10 and under County Cup Qualifying – 20th and 21st May 2023

The boys' team of Louis Garner, Ajax Millwood, Idhaant Bhasin, Charlie Goodchild and Vincent Chalupnik travelled to Boston over the weekend of 20th and 21st May to play in the 10 and under County Cup North Group C. The boys had a fantastic weekend of tennis against the Counties of Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, and Leicestershire – really great to play counties outside the East region. They won all their matches to qualify for the finals.

The girls' team of Megann Coliof, Lillian Ke, Anaiya Gupta, Anamaya Kumar and Saya Bowditch travelled to Woodbridge over the weekend of 20th and 21st May to play in the 10 and under County Cup South Group B. The girls had a fantastic weekend of tennis against the Counties of Norfolk, Bedfordshire, and Suffolk – really great to play counties inside the East region. They beat Norfolk 6/0, beat Bedfordshire 6/0, and beat Suffolk 6/0 to qualify for the South Finals in Aldershot.

Boys 10 and under County Cup Finals – 10th and 11th June 2023

The Boys Team of Louis Garner, Ajax Millwood, Idhaant Bhasin, Charlie Goodchild and Vincent Chalupnik travelled to Wirral over the weekend of the 10th and 11th June to play in the 10 and under County Cup National Finals. The Boys had a fantastic weekend of tennis where we came 2nd!

They beat East of Scotland 4/2, lost to Yorkshire 2/4, beat Warwickshire 5/1 and beat Cheshire 5/1.



Girls 10 and under County Cup Finals – 10th and 11th June 2023

The girls' team of Megann Coliof, Lillian Ke, Anaiya Gupta and Anamaya Kumar travelled to Aldershot on the weekend of 10th and 11th June for the much anticipated South County Cup Finals where they faced tough opposition from the counties of Berkshire, Middlesex, Surrey and Avon.

They beat Berkshire in a shoot-out, lost to Middlesex 0/6, beat Avon 4/2 and then beat Surrey in a shoot out to finish second overall – great achievement.

9 and under County Cup 26th March 2023

The Cambridgeshire girls and boys 9 and under teams travelled to Boston to play in North Group C in the LTA 9 and under County Cup. The girls' team of Kashvi Chauhan, Daisy Rodgers, Alisa Larin-Skorobogatov and Sofia Milena Nikolic beat Lincolnshire 6/0, beat Derbyshire 5/1 and beat Leicestershire 5/1 to qualify for the finals.

In the afternoon the boys' team on Vincent Chalupnik, Adam Sulyman, Eli Astin and Hugo Booth beat Lincolnshire 6/0, beat Derbyshire 6/0 and beat Leicestershire 6/0 and qualified for the North Finals.

9 and under finals 23rd April 2023

The U9 boys' team of Vincent Chalupnik, Adam Sulyman, Eli Astin and Hugo Booth travelled to Loughborough University for the Northern Finals. They finished fourth overall – lost to Yorkshire in a shoot-out, lost to West of Scotland 2/4, lost to Warwickshire 1/5, and beat Northumberland 6/0.

9 and under finals 22nd April 2023

The girls' team of Kashvi Chauhan, Daisy Rodgers, Alisa Larin-Skorobogatov and Sofia Nikolic won the North Finals at Loughborough beating Cheshire 5/1, beat Lancashire 4/2, beat Hereford and Worcester 5/1, beat West of Scotland 5/1 to finish with the winner's medals – great effort girls.

8 and under County Cup 23rd April 2023

Camb's put in 2 teams in both the boys' and girls' events. The boys' 'A' team came first and 'B' team second and the girls' 'A' team first and 'B' team second – this was hosted at Hills Road with the counties of Cambs, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex competing.

8 and under Inter County Red team event 26th June

The boys' team of Vincent Chalupnik, Adam Sulyman, Samuel Freeman, Hugo Booth, Philip Ungureanu, Eli Astin and Ezekiel Mensah came third.

The girls' team Kashvi Chauhan, Daisy Rodgers, Millie Radivojevic, Alisa Larin-Skorobogatov and Yingnan Ho finished second at Hills Road.

County Red Tournament 7th Jan 2024

We have just completed the County Red Tournament at Hills Road with 18 boys and 11 girls playing. Numbers slightly down on last year but a great atmosphere and lots of quality tennis – hopefully you saw this on social media.

Boy's winner Leon Garner and girl's winner Amira Sulyman. Thanks to Paul and Sue for running this.



We are keen to increase the numbers playing and to raise the standard with more players feeding into County training. Special thanks to Matt Perry, Rob Ellis, Jon Rademeyer and John Garland who are feeding minis into the system – great effort.

Players in Regional Training Winter 2023-24

The following players have been involved in Regional Training (this is done at 10/9 and under) – Vincent Chalupnik, Adam Sulyman. Sofia Nikolic, Daisy Rogers, Alissa Larin- Skorobogatov, Allegra Young, Lavanya Gupta, Kevin Liu.

Three players from 2023, Megan Coliof, Ajax Millwood and Louis Garner were put on the long list for the Player Pathway and have been to Regional Tennis Centres from September 2023 to enhance their programmes.

Competitions 2023

The Cambridge Club hosted three grade 3 events during 2023 – Easter Tournament 316 players: 367 entries and 532 matches.

Summer Open - 326 players: 372 entries and 519 matches.

Festival of Tennis – 252 players: 442 entries and 645 matches.

Numbers were very good and thanks to CLTC for all its efforts and especially to Tim Arthur as chair of CLTC and to Sharon Scotcher who organises all the catering.

Play Your Way to Wimbledon County Finals

This was held the weekend of 15th and 16th July at Hills Road with 14 girls and 19 boys playing – a very good entry. Harry Voss and May Havard were the County winners who then went on to play at Wimbledon in August. Both had a great time and qualified through from their boxes.

Lionel Cox

Lionel Cox 29th and 30th April 2023

Cambridgeshire had an excellent Lionel Cox weekend with the following results:

9 and under boys'	2nd
9 and under girls'	1st
10 and under boys'	1st
10 and under girls'	3rd
12 and under girls'	12 th
12 and under boys'	2nd

Overall third – well done Paul and Jon.



Corby 2022-23

Cambs won their division at Corby and have got promoted back to the top division for 2023 -24. This winter Cambs are playing Herts, Berkshire and Middlesex so will get some great matches. Currently second after the 14 and under and 10 and under events.

Competitions 2024

The 3 grade 3 tournaments we hold in the County have all been approved by the LTA and are as follows:

Easter Tournament Sun 7th April to Sat 13th April 2024.

Summer Open Sunday 21st July to Saturday 27th July 2024 .

Festival of Tennis Sun 25th to Sat 31st August 2024.

Sue Rich

Junior Teams Manager



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

Ladies Captain's Report for Cambridgeshire LTA AGM 2024

My overarching feeling coming away from 2023 was a year of heartbreak as we were so close on a couple of occasions, but overwhelmingly encouraging. Encouraged by the appetite our juniors coming through have for tennis, and encouraged by the difference I could see in their understanding of 'how to play the game'.

Our Summer County week saw us travel to Cheltenham in Division 3 with the following team; Laura Nigri, Sophie Watts, Anneka Watts, Jodie Tiley, Neha Kibria, Megan Carmichael, Kira Reuter, Allegra Hodson, Sophie Johnstone.

County week debuts for Allegra and Sophie.

Our week was heavily hampered by the English weather, that meant many days were switched to short sets format, and on some days we played across 3 different surfaces all within a day! That meant for some really tricky matches and long tiring days for the team.

Our group was closely fought the entire week and while on paper we had a couple of tough losses, they were really close encounters that could have swung either way.

During our practices ahead of County Week for 2024 we will most definitely be focusing on tiebreaks!

We came away from a very tightly fought group to unfortunately finish last, with only 1 win, but going into the last day everything was still to play for as there was still a chance to grab 3rd or 4th place, we just came up short.

Winter County Cup was located in Grantham, this was my first time playing at the club, which I have to say catered really well for a winter county cup event. The facilities and staff were first rate.

We were again in Division 3, but were looking for a very different result than that of County week. We had a couple of last minute changes to the squad that meant two more Cambridgeshire juniors made their Seniors debut - Millie Hansgate and Ellie Barker.

The team was; Laura Nigri, Sophie Watts, Anneka Watts, Neha Kibria, Allegra Hodson, Sophie Johnstone, Ellie Barker, Millie Hansgate.

We went into the weekend with ambitions of staying in a strong Division 3, up against Warwickshire, West of Scotland and the home county Lincolnshire. We began with a win against Warwickshire and strong individual wins for Ellie Barker, Neha Kibria and Allegra Hodson. Then followed them up with doubles wins across the board. Day 2 saw us face off against the West of Scotland where we again came out the stronger team, again winning all 3 doubles rubbers. However, Neha did suffer a serious injury which took her out for the rest of the weekend so that meant some changing of the doubles pairings and a re-think of our singles line up going into the last day.

The final day we were up against Lincolnshire, and it was a straight play-off; us vs them, for promotion. But we were going in with a weakened team without Neha and myself stepping in to play singles!

Special mention to Sophie J for a brilliant singles performance on the Sunday getting us off to a great start, was the best performance to date from Sophie.



Allegra also pulled off a convincing win at no4 singles and helped us stay even at 2-2 after I lost to a strong Ruby Coolings. Both Sophie and Annie Watts then suffered tough defeats at no1 & 2 respectively to mean that we would need to take all 3 doubles matches to pull off the win.

Pairs 2 & 3 took to court at roughly the same time and were both very tightly contested matches. Pair 3 having a tiebreak first set and Pair 2 going to a 3rd set tiebreak, however both ended up defeat which meant we were out of the running for the win. I was proud of the fight shown by the whole team across the weekend, the brilliant doubles that were on display, and for the attitude of all the players whether they were selected for singles or doubles was exemplary.

It feels like great building blocks to take into 2024 where we can hopefully gain promotion back to Division 3 in Summer County Week and push for Division 2 in winter given the way in which this team are all regularly competing and improving.

Laura Nigri
Ladies Captain



Men's Captain's Report for Cambridgeshire LTA AGM 2024

Cambridgeshire Men's Summer County Cup 2023

Last Year brought an intense heat wave for County Week, in stark contrast this year we had rain showers and heavy wind bringing about delays and changes of surface throughout the week. Never wanting to complain, our warriors got stuck in regardless and in no particular order, the team was:

Chris Little (c), Ben Clark, Derrick Chen, Matt Frost, Matt Taylor, CJ Kindred, Yujiro Onuma, Seth Newman, Charlie James and Chad Richard

Two incredibly big absences for the team were Tom Hands and Harry Wendelken. Tom had a very serious accident, we wish him well and I know he will be back into the fold before long, even stronger and raring to go. Harry suffered an unfortunate injury sustained in competition during Wimbledon Qualification. Still the boys adopted a 'next man up' mentality and were ready to bring everything they had to the competition. Headline results were:

0-9 L Against North of Scotland
 4-5 L Against Northamptonshire
 2-7 L Against South Wales
 4-5 L Against Middlesex
 4-5 L Against Essex

The story behind the results:

It's very difficult to tell the story without sounding like I am making excuses, I promise I am not, as ultimately we lost matches through very fine margins. We played a whopping 20 match tie breaks throughout the week which really does feel like a lot.

Four of those match tie breaks came in the first 6 matches of the week against the eventual group winners, the Scots. So being 0-6 down to them did not really feel like a fair reflection of our efforts. The score line could quite conceivably have been very different. Momentum at the start of the week is always massive. Wrestling momentum and starting to build for the week became our objective. Some considerations to mention at this point, firstly our experienced classy campaigner, Matt Taylor, suffered a fair amount of illness for the first few days, of course this did not detract from his undoubted fighting spirit. Secondly, Matt Frost, had made considerable effort just to be there and had a back spasm in the first match of the week, which seriously hindered his serving and therefore performance. Matt is often a catalyst that sparks team energy so to see that happen, was a blow to the energy of the whole team.

Tuesday was a day that really ebbed and flowed in terms of momentum. 2-1 down after round 1. It felt oh so close to being 3-3 after round 2 but it wasn't to be with us being 2-4 down. Northants 1st pairing just about got over the line in 2 match tiebreaks most crucially in match 5 of the day. A valiant effort to build off though.

Due to more unforeseen circumstances on the Wednesday morning, we had to field a slightly different team. We gave it everything but again it felt like we were wrestling momentum the whole day. A great effort at the end of the day for the pairings of Ben Clark/Charlie James and Derrick Chen/ Chad Richard to keep fighting and pick us up 2 rubbers.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

With the grass being very wet and an uncertain forecast, all of Thursday's tie with Middlesex, was played out on artificial clay. Time to get gritty, to save relegation, which we certainly did. A huge shoutout to Seth Newman (on debut) and Yujiro Onuma, who put on some monstrous displays to win 3/3 matches. Positive thinking ahead, they will have played a year of American College tennis honing their doubles skills even further for next year. Another match that really felt like it could have gone either way, so truly gutting to be so close but not quite there 4-5.

Even though we were already relegated by the last day, we were still very keen to end the week on a good note against Essex. The rest of the group was extremely close with 2nd and 5th place only being separated by 2 rubbers. So, we still had a part to play in who was being relegated with us and who was being promoted in second place. A well contested tie in which 7 out of the 9 matches were decided by the match tie breaks was painfully close. We had the latest finish I have ever been a part of on the Friday of County week with play finishing at gone 8pm. So many different outcomes were possible in the last round. Ben Clark/ Charlie James were still out on court battling, if Essex win that rubber they would have been promoted, however if we won it then Northamptonshire would go up to group 1 for the 1st time ever. A strange dynamic to have their side really cheering us on. It ended with Ben and Charlie delivering for Northamptonshire sparking some wild celebrations for them, handled with real class by Ben and Charlie.

A huge amount of learning again this year, which we will be determined to take into next year when we get back on the promotion train. The Bridge will rise again, Up the bridge!

Cambridgeshire Men's Winter County Cup 2023 November 24th-26th Group 3a Venue-Sunderland



Back Row - Chris Little ©, Michal Kaminski, Ben Clark, Matt Frost Front Row - Chad Richard, Christof Schaertlin-Coffey, Ryan Parkins, Harry Wendelken

Result - A very convincing promotion from Group 3 up to Group 2 (which is the highest Cambs Men have been in Winter County Cup since I have been involved).

West of Scotland - W 8-1 Berkshire - W 8-1 Durham & Cleveland W 7-2



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

As always, the results only tell part of the story. I will be honest in that, I was thinking we have an interesting mix of characters representing the mighty Bridge for Winter County Cup this year. My confidence in the team was confirmed right from the off as the camaraderie in the camp was strong. Special mention to Matt Frost at this point, he had flown over from the States to play, his upbeat character always helps galvanise any team.

Friday and we were up against the Scots, who are always very gritty. The young guns in Christof and Ryan efficiently crushed any grit shown from their youngsters, potent start. In the middle of the tie, two hard fought 3 set wins from Chad & Michal sent a serious message to the rest of the group that Cambs were up for a scrap. Harry showed his ATP ranking in a demolition of their feisty No.1, to seal the tie and put us up 5-1 after the singles. Although the tie was done, we were still determined to keep pushing for all the rubbers we could. All three doubles rubbers were hotly contested but we put on a dominant display, and to walk out of the centre with an 8-1 win was an awesome start to the campaign.

Saturday and we were ready for an intense battle with Berkshire, especially as we were able to welcome Ben Clark into the fray. Due to World Tennis Number dictating the order of singles line ups, having Christof playing at number 6 was hugely helpful for setting the tone (although I'm sure he would have been up for any challenge playing anywhere in the order). He put his opponent away in under an hour. Ryan and Michal were not too far behind in putting their opponents to the sword for yet another strong start. Ben clinically and craftily took his opponents legs away with consistency and accuracy. Matt literally did grind his opponents legs away as after a 3 hour long battle he forced him to retire with cramp. Again, usually it is a rarity to be 5-1 up after singles but to have it twice in 2 days is unheard of. No letup in the doubles to clinch all three for another 8-1 victory, pow pow.

Sunday and although no Harry to spearhead our attack, the boys were in a buoyant mood with the anticipation of promotion on the cards. However, we showed a HUGE effort not to get complacent and get ahead of ourselves, we had to recover back to the present to get the job done against a dangerous Durham & Cleveland side. We were ready to bring some serious heat to the cold north (however we all agreed that the people up north are refreshingly friendly). Christof again saw off his opponent for the loss of only 2 games. Ryan, Michal and Matt really showed some Cambs passion to get their matches over the line. The middle part of the day, the momentum really started to ebb and flow. Mathematically we only needed a few rubbers to seal winning the group and promotion, however it is always better to seal it with a win. A 7-2 win to cap off a superb weekend for Cambs Men's tennis, still always lessons to take away as we want to keep getting better as I'm sure Group 2 will be a phenomenal challenge. Bring it on, Up the Bridge!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Chris Little

Men's Captain



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

CAMBS COUNTY SENIORS' TENNIS Dec 2023 Report Tisha Hug, SCO 07890-731593
th10014@cam.ac.uk

2023 - We have **12 Men's/Ladies Seniors' County Cup Teams, 2 Seniors 35s Seniors Cup** (Devonshire Park, Eastbourne) and **4 Winter teams** entered in The **Midland Counties Indoor League** played at Corby Indoor TC. Please find below Cambs Senior County Teams and individual successes.

Special congratulations must go to our **50s Men's Summer County Cup team** who **WON Div 1b** and our **50s Ladies Team** who **WON Div 1a** and were promoted to play the Grand finals in Sheffield 28-30 October.

Further congratulations to our **35s Men's R/U of Div 3**, our **40s Ladies WON Div 3b**, **70s Men's WON Div 3b** and **75s Ladies R/U Div 2a**, all to be promoted next year. Our **60s Ladies team R/U** in the **Winter Midlands County Age leagues** at Corby. More Cambs LTA tennis news at www.cambslta.org.uk

2023 - Cambs County individual successes - apologies not to mention everyone as too many events to include all.

Alan Jordan won **60MD** and **Jenny Chin**, semi **65WS** at the **Open British Indoor Seniors Championships**, Wrexham. **Alan** also won **60MD** and **R/U 60MS** at **Bagnoles de L'Orne**, and then elected Captain of **60s Men's England team** for the **4 Nations Championships** where they very narrowly lost to Scotland and **Jenny** was selected to play for **England Ladies 65s team** and won her singles against Ireland. **Alan** with **Anthony Illingworth** then won **60MD**, **Pieter Van Houten** won **50MS** and **David Mills/Nick Boys R/U of 55MD**, at **The British Open Masters Clay Court Championships**, Bournemouth. **David** also won the **55MS** at **Tunbridge Wells**. **Rob Ellis/Andy Voss R/U 45MD & Bob Harrower R/U 75MD** at **Welwyn Seniors Masters**.

Teresa Catlin represented **GB** in the **50s Ladies Team** at **The World Seniors Championships** in Turkey (20 countries). They were the only British age group team to win a medal, **Bronze**.

Alan got to the semis **60MS & 60MD**, **Jenny 65WS** final and **Bob** semis **75MD** but all semis and finals cancelled due to rain at the **Open British Grass Championships**, Eastbourne.

2023 Festival of Tennis (3rd week August) Seniors Winners - Juniors, Open Men/Ladies events are played all week at Cambridge LTC. The **35s/55s Seniors** events are held at **David Lloyd Leisure**, 5pm-10pm Monday-Fridays.

Seniors' Results

Men's 35s singles - **Gregory Wingham R/U Leo Robarts**

Men's 35s Doubles - **Leo/Bruce Wagstaff R/U Chris Avery/Keith Mabey**

Men's 55s Singles - **Cliff Humphreys R/U Ian Styan**.

Ladies 50s Singles - **Ling Bravo-Escos R/U Eliza Papoutsi**

Ladies 50s Doubles - **Cath Heron/Alice Thomson R/U Melanie Boyle/Caroline Thornton**

2022/23 WINTER MIDLAND Counties League played @ **Corby Indoor TC** - Oct-Mar, Sat/Suns, 3 hrs, 2 pairs

40 Ladies - **Christine Spowell** (07721-013321) **2024 New Cpts** - **Bethan Davies** (07989- 573203)

bethan1979@hotmail.com & **Othelia Agar Stallbom** (07910-356030)
otheliastallbom@yahoo.com



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

50 Ladies - Sara Matta (07711-417474) sara.matta@icloud.com
60 Ladies - Sue Mitchell (01763-837170, 07818-032240) mitchellgreenhill@btinternet.com
R/U of 8 team league 55 Men's - Alan Jordan (07508-827687) ajjglobal@icloud.com
Simon Elliot (07720-068230) simon@cameva.com,

2023 MEN'S & LADIES 35s @ Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, mid-August, 3 day weekend.
35 Men – Tim Pountain-Holes timholes@hotmail.com **R/U Div 3a**
 (2sgls/3dbls) **Team:** *Tim Pountain-Holes (Capt), Andrew Greenaway, Chris Little, Matt Sanders, Matt Taylor, Benjamin Wood*
35 Ladies - Katie Jarvis (07921-258546)
jarvis.jones2020@gmail.com **3rd Div 4b** (2sgls/3dbls) **Team:** *Katie (Capt), Othelia Agar Stallbom, Kat Deudney, Fleur Clegg, Christine Sprowell*

2023 Cambs Seniors Summer County Cup (playing different counties) - commence April/May-October

45 Men - Andrew Voss (07423-431523) vossy2020@gmail.com **3rd Div 1a**
 (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *Andy (Capt), Nick Connelly, Rodrigo Cristina, Rob Ellis, Matt Perry, Arif Kibria, Sebastian Scaux,*
Tom Shackleton, Andy Smith.

50 Men - 2024 New Capt Antony Sabin (09730-693245) antonymsabin@icloud.com **WON Div 1b**
 (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *David Mills (Capt), Carl Gooch, Cliff Humphrys, Alan Jordan, Dalton Odendaal, Pieter Van Houten*
55 Men - 2024 New Capt David Mills (07748-140598)
david.mills@mills-reeve.com **5th Div 1a** (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *Simon Elliot/Alan Jordan (Capts) Martin Collar, Rowland Coombs, Shah Ginnet, Bill Skead, Jeremy Tuck.*
60 Men - Ashley Martin (07801-434338) ashley.martin32@btopenworld.com **3rd Div 2b** (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:**
Ashley (Capt), Julian Attfield, Martin Collar, Chris Cope, Gary Lowther, Jeremy Pepper.

65 Men - Philip Jenson (07886-411657) ppj22@cam.ac.uk **5th Div 2b**
 (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *Philip (Captain), Louis Hamadache, Kurt Little, David Milburn, Tony Mastroddi.*
70 Men - Jim Hunter (07752-141546) j.hunter2011@btinternet.com **WON Div 3a** (4 dbls) **Team - Jim Hunter (Capt), Des Chalk, Phil Eaves, Bob Harrower, Mike Maurice**

40 Ladies - 2024 New Capt Bethan Davies (07989- 573203) bethan1979@hotmail.com **WON Div 3b** 2sgl/3dbls **Team:** *Kate Deudney/Christine Sprowell (Capts), Othelia Agar Stallborn, Jennifer Beattie, Fleur Clegg,*

Bethan Davies, Helen Hansgate, Katie Jarvis, Victoria Knight

50 Ladies - Cath Heron (07944-320121), cath.heron@btinternet.com **WON Div 1a**
 (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *Cath (Capt), Melanie Boyle, Teresa Catlin, Rachel Hill, Alice Thomson, Caroline Thornton,*

60 Ladies - 2024 New Capt Karen Goodman (07941-799678)
karenst1@gmail.com **5th Div 2b** (2sgl/3dbls) **Team:** *Sue Mitchell (Capt), Jenny Chin, Pat Forster, Harriet May, Karen McAdam, Sally Mastroddi, Yasmin Mughal*
65 Ladies 2024 New Team & Capt - Sue Mitchell (07818-032240) mitchellgreenhill@btinternet.com **70 Ladies – Marie-Anne Rodolakis** (07557-870346) marodolakis@gmail.com **5th Div 3** (4dbls)

Team: *Marie-Anne, Clare Varley (Capts), Penny Coe, Sarah Coppendale, Sally Harris, Christine McMullen.*

Sheila Westmoreland **2024 - No team entered**

75 Ladies - Tisha Hug (07890-731593) th10014@cam.ac.uk **R/U Div 2a** (4dbls). **Team:** *Tisha (Capt), Annie Clarke, Christine Moore, Sylvia Morton, Pat Taylor*



SENIORS' SUMMER CAMBS LEAGUES AND COUNTY CUPS – Please see our Cambs LTA website for further information about Seniors tennis [Cambridgeshire Tennis | Cambridgeshire Tennis \(cambslta.org.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshiretennis.org.uk)

Ladies & Men's Trials/practices 2024 - please contact the above captains for venue/dates and details of practices, usually at Captains' clubs, Hills Road TC, David Lloyd TC, Hunts TC, Peterboro and Newmarket TC.

The Inter-Club Cambs Mixed Veteran League (Aged 40s plus) (men's doubles, ladies and mixed doubles) usually commence in February. Contact your **CLUB** Captains or Secretaries.

2023 - SUPER SENIORS (60+) leagues - Summer daytime matches, Men's, Ladies and Mixed leagues, July-September

[Cambridgeshire Tennis | Cambridgeshire Tennis \(cambslta.org.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshiretennis.org.uk)

Ladies League - Saffron Walden TC, R/U Cambridge LTC Ladies

Men's League - Needingworth TC, R/U R/U Cambridge TC

Mixed League **1a** Needingworth TC, R/U Great Shelford TC Mixed

Mixed League **1b** St Neots TC, R/U Peterborough TC Mixed

Please contact your CLUBS or email ailsaweir@btinternet.com to enter a Super Seniors 60s plus team for 2024. Players can be borrowed from another club that are not entered in your group

The National Inter-Club Championships- Ladies/Men/Mixed 35/40/45/50/55/60/65/70s & joint ages mix 105 years. These are knockout cups which commence in April. Contact your **CLUBS** to enter your teams or see direct [LTA - Tennis for Britain - LTA National League - Seniors 2023 - Organization](https://www.lta.org.uk/competitions/national-league-seniors-2023)

Coaching Grants (up to £300 to encourage 35s + to play). Cambs usually get grants for about 6 to 8 clubs/tennis groups. The LTA want to promote more 35s playing and competing, and encourage 30s plus to enter tournaments ready to play in the 35s County Cup, see www.lta.org.uk/competitions/seniors

Finally, I'll take this opportunity to announce that I am finally retiring after 45 years as Cambs Seniors County Organiser, alongside over the years, helping coach our county junior squads and players, Chair of Cambs Coaching Association (now amalgamated to a main LTA Coaches Ass), Chair of various other Cambs LTA Committees, LTA Tournaments Referee, Captains of all Cambs Seniors County Age Groups and many inter county Cambs Leagues.

*I would like to thank all the Captains and helpers that have very kindly volunteered their time over the years and to all the Cambs LTA Administrators and Committees. I will be handing the reins over at the end of 2023 into the very capable hands of **Mark Sanders** (c.mark.sanders@gmail.com 07970-025341).*

Many thanks to you all, Tisha



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

Participation Committee Report Cambridgeshire LTA AGM 2024

The Participation Committee aims to increase participation in the county (the number of people playing tennis and the frequency of play) by providing support and advice to venues and helping to develop county strategy on participation.

The committee has the following objectives:

- Identify and support clubs that can make full use of improved facilities
- Identify and support clubs that can demonstrate ability to develop participation
- Help clubs improve their facilities and offerings for disability tennis - this includes those with physical and mental disabilities
- Aim to attract more mini tennis players and improve club offerings for mini tennis

To support these objectives, we have created a Club Liaison Team and oversee a small budget to provide grants for projects designed to increase participation.

Club Liaison Team

The Club Liaison Team has the goal of providing every venue in Cambridgeshire with a designated county contact. Our aim is to create stronger links between the clubs and the county by establishing a regular two-way dialogue, that strengthens both club and county activities. The team comprises volunteers who have been or are currently involved in tennis club management and/or leadership roles within the county.

The Club Liaison Team members are Paul Ashley, Steve Shaw, Rob Ellis, Alan Dignam, Simon Grainger, Mark Sanders and Myself. If you think we can help in any way, please contact us.

Participation Grants

We provide small grants to enable venues and coaches to get more people playing tennis in Cambridgeshire. Participation Grants usually meet the following criteria: -

- Funded projects increase participation by either getting new players to play tennis or infrequent players to play more.
- Projects are often linked to and enhance existing LTA offers e.g., LTA Youth Start, LTA Youth Schools or disability and inclusive tennis.
- Recipients usually have a record of supporting the County.
- Our fund typically provides grants of between £300 and £1,000.

[Download the application form](#)

Last year we awarded 16 grants with a total value of just over £9,000. We funded a whole range of activities last year including - 2 Walking Tennis projects, 3 schools road shows including in Club follow up events, 3 requests for mini tennis equipment for new coaching projects, and funding for a school games.

Please contact us if you have a project, you would like help with.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

LTA Awards.

Volunteers, coaches, and officials are key to growing participation and the LTA Awards are designed to recognize their achievements. So please support these awards by nominating venues and individuals this year. We'll let you know when nominations are open for this year, if you need any help writing a nomination, please let us know.

Bill Skead**Chair of the Participation Committee****CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS**

Inclusion Report Cambridgeshire LTA AGM 2024

WHEELCHAIR TENNIS

Two clubs (COPTC and Papworth) have offered wheelchair sessions in the past but lack of numbers remains a significant problem. Steps have been taken to try to advertise more widely but despite these efforts the programmes are currently on hold.

VI TENNIS

This ceased entirely with COVID but there are plans to start this up again. Hills Rd Sports Centre is willing to host VI tennis and start-up money, equipment and a coach are all available. Funding applications have been made and, if successful, it is hoped to start VI tennis in the next few months.

LEARNING DISABILITY TENNIS

There remains quite a lot of activity in this area and it is pleasing to report that there have been link ups between 4 clubs throughout Cambs (CLTC, Huntingdon TC, Ely TC and St Neots TC) and 4 special schools. Another initiative is in the pipeline in Peterborough.

Other Learning Disability initiatives:-

St Neots TC coach Nick plans to have another session with the 'upside down sports club' at St Neots Sports Centre in Spring 2024. This is a club for children who are wheelchair users, many of whom also have other additional needs.

10ISACADEMY based at Kings School Ely holds weekly sessions exclusively for children with additional needs. This is ongoing.

CLTC

The annual special schools tennis tournament took place on 23.6.23. 6 teams from 4 special schools took part (24 students in total). The event went very well and another tournament will take place on 20.6.24.

An additional needs young people's group has coaching at CLTC every Saturday lunchtime during term time. Up to 5 children attend.

CLTC also coaches children from the Cambridge Rare Disease Network 8 times a year (the group is called Unique Feet). About 12 children attend.

CLTC hosted a taster event for CADMUS (Cambridge Adult Disability Multi Sport Society on 9.7.23. Another similar event may take place this year

Also CLTC invites adults with a learning disability or who are visually impaired to have a hit with volunteers from the club (CLTC has about a dozen members who are prepared to support this venture). Feedback from all involved has been positive. Four people have been to the club so far and it has become a regular activity.

CAMBRIDGE TENNIS ACADEMY currently holds several inclusive tennis coaching sessions involving children with additional needs and mainstream educated children having coaching together. Tennis Director Rob Ellis who continues to promote inclusive tennis very strongly.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

GSTC continues its involvement with the OWL (Opportunities Without Limits) Project (adult learning disability).

Cambourne TC established a connection with SENSE Knapwell and a taster session was held at Cambourne in late spring 2023 which went well. It is hoped to develop this further.

MENTAL HEALTH

It was hoped that COPTC could link up with MIND on a regional basis but unfortunately MIND has not been able to pursue this due to extensive COVID commitments. It is hoped that this can be revived in future- COPTC are happy to take this up again when MIND is ready.

WALKING TENNIS

This is an initiative that the LTA is trying to promote. Ely TC now runs a successful walking tennis group and plans to expand this further. It has now started a 'wheely tennis' initiative providing wheelchairs for those walking tennis players who are finding walking tennis challenging to be able to continue with the walking tennis sessions.

Wisbech TC has been running a walking tennis group for some time. Huntingdon TC did start a group but this is now on hold due to lack of numbers. It is hoped to revive this. Cocks and Hens TC plans to set up a group. NHS social prescription managers in Cambridge have been contacted with this in mind.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

There are contacts with Children's Services in Cambs and Peterborough to encourage vulnerable children and 'children in need' including young carers to play tennis. Also children in care, on the verge of care or in the criminal justice system. Free tennis lessons are offered to all of these children. Several vulnerable children receive coaching at a number of clubs. As well as tennis camps and after school and weekend sessions that are provided 1:1 coaching can also be offered on a short term basis if need be (e.g. to a child with a severe disability or who has challenging behaviour).

INCLUSIVE TENNIS EVENTS

Ely TC held a diversity day on 30.7.23 featuring sessions for children with additional needs and their families, VI tennis and walking tennis. Fiona and Emma at Ely TC organised this event and they continue to offer diversity tennis to a wide variety of under-represented groups (e.g. people with learning and /or physical disabilities, people who have mental health issues, the LGBTQ+ community) through a variety of initiatives. They hope to expand this work in 2024.

Cottenham TC held an inclusive session on 20.5.23 featuring physical disability tennis, pickleball and VI tennis.

The Power2inspire inclusive tennis event took place on 16.12.23. The event was successful and about 35 participants attended. Another similar event is planned for 2024.

PROPOSED DISABILITY TOURNAMENTS

Competitive disability tennis is something that the LTA is trying to promote. A zoom meeting was held with other nearby counties in November 2023 to try to get a 'critical mass' of players to compete. It is hoped to hold a disability competition as part of the Cambs Festival of Tennis this year.



FUNDING.

Several clubs e.g. CLTC and Huntingdon TC absorb the cost of some of these activities themselves. National LTA funding was given to start up some ventures e.g. walking tennis at Ely. More start-up money is available from the national LTA but it expects other sources of funding to be found in the long term.

Until recently just about all the other initiatives described above were funded by The RICHARD DARTON TENNIS FOUNDATION (RDTF) which is a small local children's charity and we are extremely grateful to them. I am delighted to report that Cambs LTA has allocated a significant amount of money this year to cover many of the ventures described above as well as funding possible new initiatives. Cambs LTA has shown a real commitment to promote disability and inclusive tennis within the county. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any further information.

Steve Shaw
Inclusion officer



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS