



KENT
TENNIS



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

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AT THE SURFACE OF SPORT



Welcome from the President

John Watton



By introducing the 2020 Annual Review of the Kent County Lawn Tennis Association, in my first year as President, I hoped to start by congratulating Kent on its many successes. Instead, we are reflecting on the most extreme circumstances faced outside of wartime. This time last year, who could have predicted that there would be a coronavirus pandemic affecting all of our

lives? The situation is still far from settled, but I would like to thank the great numbers of Kent Tennis volunteers, staff, coaches, officials and players who have put so much hard work into allowing tennis to have continued despite the many restrictions in place and for competitions to take place in a safe environment.

With so much cancelled this year, both myself and our Deputy President, Mary Evans, have found ourselves short of events to support, and yet we have still seen success on the tennis court for Kent.

For the first time ever, the two LTA Junior Players of the Year both came from the same county. Emma Raducanu, now part of the GB Federation Cup team won the Girls Award and Ben Gusic-Wan, following on from winning the Junior Orange Bowl and representing GB in the 14 and under Winter Tennis Europe Cup, won the Boys Award. We also had three more LTA National Award finalists and more will be found on these elsewhere in this review.

The few county teams that have played since last year's Review have met with success too. Our Ladies won the Winter County Cup for the 4th year running at the end of 2019, and both the Men's Winter and Boys 18U won promotion to Group 1. We look forward to seeing more of our teams compete in 2021.

Kent Tennis successfully introduced regular online Coffee Mornings this year, for club officials and members to catch up with our Office Staff, members of Council, share best practice, and provide advice to their peers. This has proved to be a useful way of staying in touch in very difficult circumstances, and these are continuing on a fortnightly basis.

Kent's clubs have seen a resurgence in membership, as tennis has been rightly identified as one of the easiest sports to play with social distancing in place. With a 20% increase in membership throughout the county, clubs have been able to capitalise on tennis' unique position at a very difficult time, and we hope that all those new to tennis enjoy the game so much they continue to be involved in the sport.

I hope 2021 brings you all a much better year, and that I get to see many more of you in person rather than via video calls. Please stay safe and keep on enjoying your tennis when you can.

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Front cover picture: Kent's two National Players of the Year. Left: Ben Gusic-Wan, Junior Boys Player of the Year, holding the Orange Bowl Trophy, and right: Emma Raducanu, LTA Girls Player of the Year, holding her LTA Premier Ladies Singles title trophy.

Back cover picture: Audrey Goodworth (left) and Rachael Taylor (right) touching rackets at Trottiscliffe LTC upon returning to tennis safely after the first national lockdown this year.

Kent Tennis Playing Highlights 2020

Ben Gusic-Wan won the Orange Bowl 12U Singles, in December 2019; the first British player to do this since Andy Murray. Ben was awarded the LTA Award for Boys Junior Player of the Year and represented Great Britain in the 14U Tennis Europe Winter County Cup.

Emma Raducanu won her first \$25k tournament in India (third ITF title in total). Emma was awarded the LTA Award for Girls Junior Player of the Year and was selected for Great Britain in the Federation Cup.

Jack Pinnington Jones now has an ITF Junior World Ranking of 35.

The following Kent players all appeared in the LTA's summer British Tour events series; Anton Matusevich, Jack Pinnington Jones, Isaac Stoute, Gabby Chidwick, Alice Gillan, Sasha Hill, Sofia Johnson, Nell Miller, Emma Raducanu and Sarah Wray. Emma won the Ladies Premier singles title in week 1, whilst Anton reached the semi-finals of the Men's Premier singles in week 2.

Zane Cheeseman & Stephen Weatherall were crowned National Indoor 35s Doubles Champions.

Ruben Harris (Canterbury LTC), at the age of 13, was selected for the Wheelchair National Age Group Programme – the LTA's wide-ranging package of support designed to help high potential wheelchair players progress towards future international success.

Kent Ladies are the Winter National Champions for the 4th year running.

Kent Boys 18U won Group 2, putting them back into Group 1 for 2021.

Kent Men's 35s retained their National title.

At the end of 2019, Men's 65s & 70s both won their National County Cup Finals. The Ladies 50s & 75s both finished as National Runners-up.

Pictured below are: National Indoor 35s Mens Doubles Champions, Stephen Weatherall & Zane Cheeseman; Emma Raducanu in action at the Battle of the Brits; Kent Ladies Winter County Cup Champions (Back row, left to right: Alice Gillan, Olivia Parson, Holly Richards, Jacqueline Darby, Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale. Front row, left to right: Sofia Johnson, Tiegan Aitken, Gabby Chidwick, Sarah Wray).

The results section covers Kent's winners as well as championship successes.





Pictured above clockwise from top left: **Anton Matusevich** at the LTA British Tour in the summer; **Kent Men's 65s** – National Champions (Bob Whitehead, Jasper Cooper, Robin Garratt, Rob Andrew, Chris Morgan); **Kent Men's 70s** – National Champions (Gordon Hayward, Peter Pharo, Keith Clark, Jonathan Potter); Kent Boys 14U Singles Summer Series Invitational Finalists – **Kobi Smith** (runner up), **Isaac Forde** (Champion); LTA National Runner-up & South East Regional School of the Year – **St Peter's CoE Primary School**, Aylesford; Kent Girls 14U Singles Summer Series Invitational Champion – **Daisy Rowland**; Kent 8U Winter Boys Singles Champion – **Drew Baker**; LTA National Finalist & South East Regional Competition of the Year – **Sadie Bristow Foundation**, Sadie's Day Competition held at Queens Cub.

Thank you!

Bromley Tennis Centre, Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre, David Lloyd Kings Hill, Deal Indoor Tennis Centre, Sennocke Centre, The Parklangley Club – for court hire discounts for County matches, practices and training.

Bromley Tennis Centre, Canterbury LTC, Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre, Tunbridge Wells LTC - for courts for schools competitions.

Bromley Tennis Centre, Sennocke Centre, Canterbury Indoor Tennis Centre, Frindsbury LTC - for hosting junior league events.

Bromley Tennis Centre - for rooms for Council and Board meetings and the AGM (and usually, in non-pandemic years, hosting the County Championships).

Broadstairs & St Peters LTC, Frindsbury LTC, Kings Rochester Sports Centre, Oakwood TC, Sevenoaks School, The Parklangley Club, The Sundridge Park Club, and Tunbridge Wells LTC - for hosting the Kent Tennis Summer Series.

Jason Baker, Jim Barton, Susan Finch, Harri Izzard, Graham Silvester, Angie Suleau, Vanessa Webb, and Sarah Wray - for organising and refereeing the Kent Tennis Summer Series.

HEAD UK, Trevor May Contractors, KEM, Colchester Global Investors, East West Connect – for their continuing sponsorship of Kent Tennis.

Jason Baker, Jim Barton, Clare Bristow, Siobhan Butler, Keith Clark, Denis Costelloe, Steve D'Almeida, John Darby, Tom Defrates, Mary Evans, Susan Finch, Tony Fisher, Carol Harrison, Luke House, Harri Izzard, Nigel Jordan, Lisa King, Charlotte Knight, Rosemary Lee, Phil Lynch, Sandi Procter, John Ratcliffe, Graham Silvester, Malcolm Smith, Geoffrey Stephenson, Graham Sutherland, John Watton, Vanessa Webb, Janice White, Keeley Wicks, David Willan and Stephen Woodley – for their contributions in compiling, writing, editing and proof-reading this Annual Review.

Sue Bamford, Tom Carlton, Roberto Forzoni, Luke House, Andy Knibbs, David Martins, Rob Sheath, Rob Smith and Suzanne Williams - for their support and encouragement with the Kent Tennis Coaches Network during COVID-19.

Special Thank You to...

All the many volunteers, coaches, team captains, competition organisers, players, referees, umpires, court supervisors, staff and club members across the county who, in 2020, have kept their clubs running, ensuring their club members were able to stay safe and play tennis in the most extreme of circumstances. Government and LTA guidance changed regularly and so clubs had to be so flexible in changing and implementing their guidance for members too, as tennis flourished with courts reaching capacity throughout the county. Well done everyone!



Congratulations to...

Austin Smith, our Life President, who celebrated his 90th birthday this year. Although, in 2020, we could not be with Austin and his family to help celebrate, the Kent Tennis Board did manage an online rendition of Happy Birthday to Austin (none of the Board will be on X-Factor anytime soon) and we raise a glass to our longest serving President, Austin....Cheers!

Below: Austin and Cynthia Smith



OPERATIONS

Kent Tennis Board – “A Year Like No Other”

Malcolm Smith, Chairman, Board of Management



When the Board was sitting down last December at its annual planning day, we could have had no idea that the year ahead would turn out the way it did. Everything was turned on its head and we have spent our time very much responding to the pandemic, steering our clubs and tennis centres through the various edicts and guidance notices that have been (well) issued by the LTA. At the outset of the initial

lockdown we took the decision that the Board should meet on a weekly basis and then subsequently every two weeks. This was a big time commitment from all the members of the Board, and I thank them all for their unstinting support throughout these difficult and challenging months with all its twists and turns.

A particular note of thanks has to go to John Ratcliffe and Janice White, who really have played an outstanding role this year in helping our clubs through everything. They ensured contact was made early on with clubs to see how they were coping, and then via the Club Forums and Coffee Mornings, they have stayed close to all our clubs, and engaged continuously with them throughout the year. We owe them a big debt of thanks for all this hard work and effort.

This year, we also welcomed Phil Lynch to the Kent Tennis Office Team, as Office Manager, and he has certainly been tested in

managing us through such a year. But he has not been found wanting at all, using his project management skills in keeping us all in touch with everything going on and getting us all set up and working on Zoom, which is no mean feat! So, a great start for Phil and it's been a pleasure working with him.

Harri Izzard, our Performance and Competitions Manager, with very short notice, pulled venues and officials together across the county to run a Summer Series of matchplays to replace our cancelled County Championships. We are very grateful to Harri and all the clubs and officials who helped deliver this additional opportunity for competitive tennis.

So, in a strange way, this has brought all of us, both on the Board, on Council and through our regular engagement with clubs, much closer together as a Kent Tennis community. It has required us to communicate that much more, it has required us to adapt (and never more so as we sit here under Lockdown 2) and it has shown us why tennis is so important to all of us as a recreational activity, even without all the competitions, teams and events.

As we prepare to convene again as a Board for our planning day, we are looking ahead with some uncertainty but with the knowledge that we should do everything we can to keep tennis going in whatever shape or format that the year ahead brings.

Kent Tennis Council

Jason Baker, Honorary Secretary, Kent Tennis



As usual 2019 finished with the AGM, held in the hall at Newstead Wood School which was well attended by 82 people, a small increase on 2018. It was great to see so many people taking an interest in Kent Tennis, many of whom give up so much of their valuable time to ensure that tennis in the County goes from strength to strength, and we are very grateful to all of you who contribute. At the meeting, the 2020 Council was elected, including three

new Councillors and our President (John Watton) and Deputy President (Mary Evans) for the next two years. We were also delighted to announce that Kent Tennis Board member, Sandi Procter, had been elected LTA Deputy President for the next three years, with Nigel Jordan succeeding Sandi as our representative on the LTA Council. The meeting also recognised the contribution to tennis in the county of four past and current Councillors, who were presented with Honorary County Colours, namely Lina Hopkins, Jane Short, Vanessa Webb and Anna Wilson.

Kent Tennis is run by a Council elected by its member organisations, and on a day to day basis by a Board of representatives from members of the Council. Not surprisingly, 2020 was a very different year for the operation of Kent Tennis and the Council met four times, with only one of those meetings, in January, being face to face. The Council ratifies the key decisions taken by the Board and its meetings this year have focused very much on our response to the COVID-19 situation, taking our lead from the LTA guidance.

The Council meetings would usually focus on the effective implementation of the Kent Plan; however, this document has become largely redundant in 2020 with the cancellation of so many tennis activities. Despite this we have discussed, learned and made decisions on a number of areas covering: the future governance of Bromley Tennis Centre, the LTA annual awards, the Performance Coach roles in the County, the revised LTA process for the allocation of Wimbledon tickets to volunteers, sponsors and clubs. The Council also received a report on the delivery of the LTA objectives and focus areas by Nigel Jordan, as our LTA Councillor. We hope that clubs do receive, after each meeting, updates on relevant key matters from their Council representative.

Despite it being a tough year, I feel that the Council has responded to the abnormal circumstances we found ourselves in and continued to maintain its effectiveness. I would like to thank Councillors for adapting and responding to the situation and for all their hard work and time given in the pursuit of making Kent Tennis even better. It is pleasing to see that two new volunteers have come forward to fill our vacancies for 2021.

KENT COUNTY LTA COUNCIL 2020

Honorary Positions

President:

John Watton

Deputy President:

Mary Evans

Honorary Life President:

Austin Smith

Honorary Life Vice-Presidents:

Roger Bottomley

Angela Darby

Stuart Smith

Denis Costelloe

John Darby

Stephen Woodley

Pauline Cox

John Povey

Board of Management

Board Member

Malcolm Smith

Jason Baker

Nigel Jordan

Sandi Procter

John Ratcliffe

Graham Silvester

Geoffrey Stephenson

Roles

Chairman of Board & Commercial Affairs

Hon. Secretary & Administration of County Affairs

Hon. Treasurer, Financial Affairs & LTA Councillor

Workforce Management

Club, Community & Education Support

Marketing & Communications

Legal Affairs

Clubs

Tunbridge Wells

Tunbridge Wells

Old Wilsonians

Bromley Tennis Centre

Shooters Hill

Bromley Tennis Centre

Sundridge Park

Elected Councillors

Councillor

Jim Barton

Tom Defrates

Mary Evans

Susan Finch

Tony Fisher

Luke House

Sarah Langford

Rosemary Lee

Clare Lilley

Phil Lynch

Matt Perfect

Graham Sutherland

John Watton

Vanessa Webb

Keeley Wicks

Anna Wilson

Roles

Safeguarding, Maidstone & Medway Leagues

Disability Tennis

Deputy President, Awards, Schools Tennis

Junior County Teams

Kent Supporters Club – Finance

Coaches Network

Projects

Kent Supporters Club – Membership/Admin

Projects

Hon. Assistant Secretary

North Kent LTA

Ashford District League

President, Seniors County Teams

Press Officer, East Kent LTA

Kent Inter-Club Leagues

Projects

Clubs

Frindsbury

Bromley Tennis Centre

Otford

Parklingley

Knoll

Shooters Hill

Bromley Tennis Centre

Bromley CC

Sundridge Park

Bromley Wendover/HSBC

Shooters Hill

Wye

Beckenham/Bearsted

Deal Indoor Tennis Centre

Bexley

Sundridge Park

Note: All Board of Management members are also elected Councillors

Trustees: **Jason Baker, Nigel Jordan, John Ratcliffe**

Kent Tennis Office Team

Phil Lynch

Harri Izzard

Janice White

Siobhan Butler

Rob Smith

Harry Bushnell

Kent Tennis Office Manager (from March 2020)

Performance & Competitions

Clubs & Coach Engagement

Competitions

County Performance Coach (12U to 18U) (to June 2020)

County Performance Coach (8U to 11U) (to June 2020)

Council Attendees 2020

Councillor's name	No. Meetings invited to	No. Meetings attended	Councillor's name	No. Meetings invited to	No. Meetings attended
Jason Baker	4	4	Phil Lynch	4/KT	4
Jim Barton	4	2	Matt Perfect	4	0
Denis Costelloe	VP	1	Sandi Procter	4	4
Angela Darby	VP	3	John Ratcliffe	4	4
John Darby	VP	3	Graham Silvester	4	4
Tom Defrates	4	2	Malcolm Smith	4	3
Mary Evans	4	4	Stuart Smith	VP	3
Susan Finch	4	4	Geoffrey Stephenson	4	1
Tony Fisher	4	4	Graham Sutherland	4	4
Luke House	4	3	John Watton	4	3
Harri Izzard	2/KT	2	Vanessa Webb	4	4
Nigel Jordan	4	4	Janice White	4/KT	4
Sarah Langford	4	4	Keeley Wicks	4	4
Rosemary Lee	4	2	Anna Wilson	4	4
Clare Lilley	4	4	Stephen Woodley	VP	3

NOTES: VP = Honorary Life Vice-President KT = Kent Tennis Office Team. VPs & KTs are not permitted to vote but are welcome to attend and speak at Council meetings.

Volunteer & Working Groups

Kent Inter-Club Leagues:	Keeley Wicks (Chair), Harri Izzard, Anne Gibbs, Mark Martin, Rachael Taylor, Vanessa Webb,
Tournament Organisers:	Siobhan Butler (Kent Tennis Office), Keith Clark (Seniors), Mary Evans (Schools), Harri Izzard (Kent Tennis Office)
Men's Captain, Vice-Captain:	Andy Burgoyne, Alastair Filmer
Ladies Captain, Vice-Captain:	Holly Richards, Jacqueline Darby
Seniors Men's Captains:	Stephen Woodley (Chair), Oliver Freelove (35s), John Gotke (45s), Dino Skeete (50s), Keith Gill (55s), Nigel Jordan (60s), Jasper Cooper (65s), Jonathan Potter (70s), Gary Sims (75s)
Seniors Ladies Captains:	Hazel Lindfield (Chair & 60s), Kate Hands & Karen Thomas (35s), Suzy Russell (40s), Rachel Payne (50s), Jane Gentle (55s), Sheila Badger (65s), Myra Hunter (70s), Janet Broster (75s)
Juniors Captains:	Rob Smith (Boys 18U & 14U), Tom Jarvis (Boys 16U), Dominic Cobby (Boys 12U), Shane Theobald (Boys 11U), Brett Spencer-Stephens (Boys 10U), Pippa Lane (Girls 18U), Holly Richards (Girls 16U), Sarah Wray (Girls 14U), Martin Whitehouse (Girls 12U), Harry Bushnell (Girls 11U & 10U), Tom Samson (Mixed 9U & 8U East), Greg McNally (Mixed 8U West)
Communications & Publicity:	Graham Silvester (Chair), Jason Baker, Steve D'Almeida, Tony Fisher, Carol Harrison, Harri Izzard, Phil Lynch, Sandi Procter, Vanessa Webb, Janice White, Anna Wilson, Stephen Woodley
Kent Officials Network:	Jason Baker (Chair), Charlie Falconer, Harri Izzard, Chris Mann
Kent Tennis Supporters Club:	Rosemary Lee, Tony Fisher, Janice White
Wimbledon Tickets:	John Darby (Chair), Jason Baker, Jacqueline Darby, Catherine Edwards, Joe Edwards, Tony Fisher, Rosemary Lee, Phil Lynch

LTA Officials

Stuart Smith
Austin Smith
Sandi Procter
Nigel Jordan
Steven Matthews

LTA Past President
LTA Honorary Life Vice-President
LTA Deputy President and elected member of LTA Board
Kent's LTA Council representative
Tennis Industry Association's LTA Council representative

Communications

As you will have read elsewhere in this Annual Review, 2020 was a year like no other. Much of our communication was centred around advising clubs, volunteers, officials, staff, coaches, players, parents and sponsors what the latest guidelines meant for everyone. Beyond the many emails though, we looked to build upon the great work started in 2019 by our previous Administration Manager, Clare Lilley, and the Communications Group volunteers. The key strategy remains to broaden the visibility of Kent Tennis and to improve engagement with clubs, supporters, sponsors, coaches, players and Councillors.

- Kent Tennis Coffee Mornings - The current climate led us to learn to embrace new technology, with many people being introduced to "Zoom" online video meetings for the first time. Our search for an alternative method for communicating with our member clubs resulted in the introduction of online Kent Tennis Coffee Mornings. These are chaired by Phil Lynch, with discussions led by John Ratcliffe and updates from Janice White on a wide range of topics for club representatives, with Competitions and Performance advice from Harri Izzard, and Inter-club League updates from Keeley Wicks. These have been held fortnightly and, along with LTA webinars, have seen Kent Tennis engage with more clubs in meetings and forums than any year previously; 74 clubs have been involved in one way or another, and we will continue these into the new year.

- KLT - A revamped, digital KLT magazine was promised at the end of last year that would provide shorter sharper articles more frequently. Using the MailChimp digital emailing service and with great work from Graham Silvester to design the issues, the first KLT appeared in January, along with a 4-sided printed version posted out to clubs. COVID-19 meant we had to alter our plans, both in terms of what we produced and how we produced it. So, the two further issues circulated could only be sent via email, reaching out to over 1400 people. Focus and support on matters relating to COVID-19 coupled with so much tennis being cancelled, reduced our ability to do more this year, but we are drawing up plans now for more issues in the next 12 months. In addition to Graham, we are very grateful to the following for their writing, editing and proof-reading for our articles this year – Steve D'Almeida, Carol Harrison, Harri Izzard, Phil Lynch, Sandi Procter, Vanessa Webb, Janice White and Anna Wilson.

- Media Coverage - Vanessa Webb has expanded her excellent contacts even further this year and continued to issue weekly bespoke press releases to newspapers, television companies and radio stations. We were amazed at the growth we had seen with the local papers in Kent last year but Vanessa now has regular articles being published by 39 local newspapers across Kent and South East London, as well as updates appearing on KM Online website and, regular shoutouts on KMFM Radio. Vanessa was also responsible for arranging ITV Meridian News to visit Canterbury LTC and interview LTA Boys Player of the Year, Ben Gusic-Wan, for the early evening news, which was then seen by many on their televisions across the county.

- Social Media - Carol Harrison continue to transform our social media presence. Although there was less tennis activity to report on, Carol still managed to find regular updates for our Instagram page, be it players signing up for university, players returning to practice and competition after lockdown, the Kent Tennis Summer Series, online events and webinars being held by Kent and the LTA, or even Kent players who have played at Wimbledon in the past 50 years, Carol has covered it all on Instagram. Our Instagram followers this year has increased from 667 to 1215.

- Website - our new rebranded website will launch imminently and we are very grateful to the work Emma Wanostrocht and Anna Wilson have undertaken to get this in place, and also to Graham Silvester for continuing to update our existing website.

- Branding - The great work Anna Wilson and Clare Lilley undertook in 2019 has been built upon to further roll out the new Kent Tennis branding across all we do. The new logo design and associated templates is on all letterheads and documentation now sent out by Kent Tennis. We also saw the new Kent Tennis County kit in 2020, at the 18U Junior County Cup, displaying our new logo and our junior county training squad players have all recently ordered the latest branded kit.

The new online County Store launched this year, showing both the green county training kit and white county cup shirt, is pictured below:



COMPETING County Cup

Kent is one of only 5 counties that enters teams into every age group of the National County Cup Championships from 9U all the way through to 75s. At junior level the age groups are at 10U, 11U, 12U, 14U and 18U each for Boys and Girls and mixed for 9U. There is also a summer Men's and Ladies County Cup, a winter Men's and Ladies County Cup, a Men's and Ladies over 35s County Cup and a Seniors County Cup with age groups for Ladies 40s, Men 45s, and then 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s, 70s, and 75s each for both Ladies and Men. The format of each event varies slightly according to the age groups.

In addition to the County Cup teams there are also Inter-County Championships held at a Regional level for juniors at 8U and 16U.

Kent Tennis organises all the junior teams. This includes supporting team selection, confirming coaches, arranging transport, accommodation and finances for all stages of the events that our teams qualify for, as well as finding/agreeing venues for fixtures within the county. The events are hugely popular with the juniors selected, with many of them choosing it as their top tennis event of the year. The enjoyment they get from these events translates beyond junior tennis, with many players having represented Kent at Junior, Adult and Seniors level through the years. We are very grateful to all the hard work and support provided by Harri Izzard in the Kent Tennis Office Team and to Susan Finch for all her help and assistance throughout the year.

Regrettably, like so much tennis in 2020, most of the County Cup competitions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The only competitions held were the Men's & Ladies Winter County Cup (in November 2019 - the 2020 competition has already been cancelled) and the Juniors 18U (in February). Let's hope next year sees a great deal more tennis for all!

Our Ladies celebrated winning the Winter County Cup for a 4th consecutive year whilst our Men's Team won promotion to Group 1 Winter County Cup. Our 18Us Boys also secured promotion to Group 1.

Details of results and players can be found in the results section of this Annual Review.

Pictured below: The successful Boys 18U team, (left to right) Back row: Rob Smith (Captain), Kristofer Johnson, Oscar Brown, Jack Pinnington Jones, Tommy Harrison, Furqan Lawal, Luca Pavan, Kean de Villiers, Tom Jarvis (Vice-captain). Front row: Alex De Sousa, Tommy Paskauskas, Archie Turner, Oliver Richards.



County Training

The provision of county training for over 150 players is one of the largest responsibilities for Kent Tennis. Over the 2019-20 season, we scheduled 280 hours of training delivered by 22 coaches, primarily at Bromley Tennis Centre and Canterbury. In terms of player hours on court in these sessions, this equates to 3000 hours. However, as with so much in pandemic affected 2020, much of this was cancelled from March. Planning is well underway for 2021.

County training enables the top players in age groups from 8U – 18U to train together with high level coaches running the sessions. Through our training we aim to build teams who can compete successfully for us in the County Cup events. This means getting to know players' attributes better, building team spirit, identifying pairings that work well together and equipping players with team skills that they may not necessarily get through their individual training. Playing for your county is an honour, as well as great fun, and we hope to create an environment of excellence which everyone wants to take part in.

The Board of Management reviewed existing roles this year and concluded Kent Tennis would be best served by one Kent Tennis Lead Coach for 2021. Regrettably, this meant that in June 2020, our existing senior performance coaches, Rob Smith and Harry Bushnell, stood down from their roles as our 12U to 18U county coach and our 8U to 11U county coach, respectively. We are very grateful to

Rob and Harry for their hard work and it is most unfortunate that their year in situ was interrupted by the most extreme circumstances. They introduced a syllabus, with lesson plans, for all the county coaches to follow and providing support throughout the year. We hope both Rob and Harry will still be involved in Kent Tennis going forward.

Comprehensive support from Kent Tennis for county training covers both the provision of coaches and courts. The process begins each year with identifying and reserving court time, and is followed by the detailed research required to ensure fair player selection.

Ready for the new year, Kent Tennis has recently introduced new Nike kit available to county squad players to give them a greater choice of items, and also to ensure kit is in-line with last year's Kent Tennis re-branding. The suppliers are kitlocker.com.

Pictured below: Girls 18U 2020 County Cup in their new kit. Left to right: Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale, Sofia Johnson, Alaia Rubio Perez, Emma Slack, Summer Reeves, Skye Bentum-Siripi, Niamh Egan, Emma Sawkings, Holly Richards (Vice-captain), Georgie Lancaster, Tabitha Howe and Pippa Lane (Captain)



County Championships

Without intentionally wishing to repeat ourselves, due to COVID-19, the 91st Kent County Closed Championships were cancelled. We sincerely hope 2021 allows us to host these once again. We hope we can return with increased participation, creating an event where great rapport between competitors, parents, coaches and volunteers is built. We will review our options for creating an event for all to enjoy in the new year.

The Winter 8U County Championships were held again at Bromley Tennis Centre prior to lockdown, with 45 boys and 28 girls participating. Drew Baker and Jessica Van Kets were the successful Boys and Girls Singles Champions respectively.

Our thanks go to Sarah Langford, Graham Silvester and Bromley Tennis Centre for ensuring these events were run successfully.

Kent Summer Series

With the loss of the County Championships, we announced the Kent Tennis Summer Series 2020 as replacement competition during the same week in August. These were one day singles events for age groups 9U through to Open with 2 tiers to the series. These were the Kent Summer Invitational (for current County Training Squad players) and the Kent Summer Local Matchplay (catering for all other players). 150 players competed in the Summer Series. A further 35 players would have played, had several events not been cancelled due to the unseasonable weather that week.

These events were hosted across the county at 8 different venues to whom we are grateful for providing facilities and we thank them for their hospitality. The venues were - Broadstairs & St Peters LTC,

Frindsbury LTC, Kings Rochester Sports Centre, Oakwood TC, Sevenoaks School, The Parklangley Club, The Sundridge Park Club, and Tunbridge Wells LTC. We are very grateful to Harri Izzard for setting this up at short notice, and our referees for jumping in and running the events - Jason Baker, Jim Barton, Susan Finch, Harri Izzard, Graham Silvester, Angie Suleau, Vanessa Webb, and Sarah Wray. Tennis balls were kindly supplied by Head UK, and our thanks also go to Phil Lynch who drove round the county dropping tennis balls off to the referees.

The Summer Invitational Winners are recorded in our results section of this review.

Seniors County Championships

The Seniors County Championships are run both for Men and Ladies, with Keith Clark and Siobhan Butler running these respectively during the winter. These are for players who are either Kent qualified (birth/residence) or are a member of a Kent registered club. This is a very useful way of prospective county players being seen by the relevant Seniors Captains ahead of the summer inter-county championships selections.

The Men's events are run as a postal tournament, from October, for age groups from 45s to 75s, with finals then held in March at Bromley Tennis Centre. The Ladies events were held this year for the first time since 2011, with a one day doubles event at 40s and 60s.

Entries increased to a healthy 124 entries across 13 events. For the upcoming winter, Ladies 50s and 70s Doubles events have been added, as well as a Men's 75s Singles. The Seniors remains a successfully expanding section of our tennis.

Pictured below: Left – Winter County Championships 8 U Girls Singles players finalists. Right - Senior Championship Finals left to right: John Watton (Kent Tennis President), Keith Clark (Referee and Men's 70s Singles runner-up), Peter Pharo (Men's 70s Singles Champion).



Road to Wimbledon

The Road to Wimbledon is the largest junior tournament in British Tennis, providing 14U players the opportunity to progress from clubs and schools through to competing on the world famous grass courts at the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), Wimbledon. Players who secure a place in the finals at the AELTC gain a real insight into what it might be like to take part in the Wimbledon Championships themselves. Competitors have access to the player restaurants and locker rooms and play on the practice courts.

Kent Tennis organises the county stage of this event. We encourage local clubs, parks and schools to stage a tournament for their members or pupils who are rated between 10.2 and 7.1. Winners of these events then progress to the Kent County Finals. County Final winners are then invited to the National Road to Wimbledon Finals held at the AELTC, Wimbledon, in August.

Regrettably, in 2020, this event did not go ahead, but we hope for an increased participation when a sense of normality returns.

National League

The National League is a singles and doubles based team competition, managed nationally by the LTA, organised by each county for its registered venues, and held in both summer and winter. In the summer, it covers all age groups from 8U to adults, and in the winter, it covers juniors 8U to 18U.

The adult leagues, run only in the summer, comprise teams of 4 players each playing a singles match before each plays a doubles match. Clubs enter their teams in their county divisions, and can progress to qualify for promotion into Regional and National divisions for the following year. Matches are played April to June, with regional play-offs and National finals played in July.

The junior leagues in the summer are split into Premier League and County League. The Premier league is a 4 player format, playing singles and doubles like the adults. Clubs having higher ranked players can enter directly into the Premier League which allows stronger players and teams to play in a more appropriate standard league. Teams are accepted to the Premier 12U-18U events based on the ratings of nominated players at entry stage. There are 3 age

groups: 12U, 14U and 18U, and matches are played April to June, with National Finals in July.

The junior County National Leagues run by Kent Tennis accept entries into draws for both the 4 player format and also a 2 player format (where players play 1 singles each and then combine to play doubles). There are 7 age groups: 8U, 9U, 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U and 18U. Whereas there are separate boys and girls draws for 11U to 18U, there are only Mixed teams for 8U to 10U. These matches are played April to July, but no play-offs after.

The format for the National Winter Junior League is two-player teams in round-robin boxes which then lead to a knock-out for the county final in March.

Whilst the Summer National League was cancelled, the Winter Junior League was successfully completed, with finals played in September, having been delayed from March. In the winter 2019/20, 288 teams from 35 clubs entered. The results section of this review lists the winners.

Kent Tennis HEAD Inter-Club Leagues

The Kent County Lawn Tennis Association Doubles Leagues are one of the oldest in the world, having started in 1890. The Summer Season starts in April, runs through to August with Divisional play-off finals in September. The Winter Season starts end of September and runs through to March. However, this year, the winter finals were completed in September, with the summer season having been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Leagues are run with teams of 2 pairs in both summer and winter. Ladies Doubles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles are played in both summer and winter. The summer leagues also have Midweek Ladies Doubles, Midweek Seniors 45s Men's Doubles and Midweek Mixed (45s Men/40s Ladies) Doubles. The winter has Seniors 40s Ladies Doubles, Seniors 45s Men's Doubles, Midweek Seniors Ladies 60s Doubles, Midweek Seniors Men's 60s Doubles and Midweek Seniors Men's 70s Doubles leagues.

To keep all the above running like clockwork throughout the year, ensuring results are entered correctly, unknown players' names are

entered, and queries resolved, and keeping League Planner Tournament Software up to date, our thanks go to our hard-working competition organisers (Anne Gibbs, Mark Martin, Rachael Taylor and Vanessa Webb) and the Competitions Co-Ordinator, Keeley Wicks. Our thanks also go to Harri Izzard and Siobhan Butler in the Kent Tennis Office Team for their invaluable help, especially in setting everything up on League Planner for the online results reporting, and helping Keeley and the league organisers answer numerous queries.

Entries this year remained, for the winter, at similar levels to previous years, with 56 clubs entering 394 teams.

The leagues are sponsored by HEAD UK, official ball supplier to Kent Tennis.

The Results Section of this Annual Review has the full list of winners for the completed Kent Winter Leagues, as well as for the District Associations listed in the next section.

District Leagues & Associations

There are 6 District Tennis Leagues being run within Kent that are affiliated to Kent Tennis. They have their own constitutions and committees, but can turn to the Kent competitions committee for advice and assistance where relevant. All of these leagues were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, cancelling their summer leagues, but we do have completed results for some of their winter leagues this year (see Results Section).

The affiliated District Leagues (and number of affiliated competing clubs in the past year) are:

- › Ashford & District Lawn Tennis League - 12 clubs
- › Deal Indoor Winter Tennis League - 4 clubs
- › East Kent Lawn Tennis Association - 10 clubs
- › Maidstone & District Lawn Tennis League - 14 clubs
- › Medway Lawn Tennis Association - 4 clubs
- › North Kent Lawn Tennis Association - 32 clubs

Schools Tennis

Kent Tennis runs competitions for both primary and secondary schools, and supports nationwide LTA schools' competitions within the county. 2020 was supposed to launch the new look Kent schools' competition programme but regrettably, due to COVID-19, all were cancelled.

At primary school level, we run the Kent Tennis Primary Schools Competition which is a doubles event at red, orange, green. This event starts with 4 qualifying events spread across the county to allow for local competition, with the top 16 teams invited to the finals at Bromley Tennis Centre in June.

At secondary school level, we run the Kent Tennis Secondary Schools Competition, which is a doubles event for both boys and girls in Years 7&8, 9&10 and 11 to 13. This event is a 1 day doubles competition that takes place in late April.

We also provide a secondary schools league competition that runs under the umbrella of LTA Team Tennis Schools. This event covers both boys and girls in Years 7&8, and Years 9&10. There are three divisions of competition to accommodate for all levels of player, as follows:

› Division 1 is for schools who can field a team of higher ranked performance players. Schools compete in Round Robin boxes leading to elimination draws which in turn decides the Kent Division 1 winner that will then go on to compete at a regional and national level.

› Division 2 is for schools who tend to have more club level players. Schools compete in local Round Robin boxes and the winners of each area will come together to compete in a final at the Kent Schools Games. These finals take place in conjunction with other sports, which creates a real buzz for our county finals. The winners at these finals go on to compete at a regional level.

› Division 3 was due to be an addition for us this year to encourage the less experienced and beginner player to enjoy the sport of tennis at a very local festival level. Schools from across the county volunteered to run an afternoon event, after school, for a cluster of schools to introduce them to the game.

Our thanks to go the large team of volunteers who regularly support the running of Schools Tennis; Kent Tennis main schools volunteer, Mary Evans, Harri Izzard and Siobhan Butler (Kent Tennis Office Team), all the teachers, and other volunteers and staff at our partner organisations. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



Pictured left: St Peter's CoE Primary School, Aylesford – South East Region LTA School of the Year

CLUBS & COMMUNITY

Kent Clubs

In 2019/20, 117 clubs registered with the LTA, a decrease of two clubs on the year before, with no new clubs registering this year. Of these 117 clubs, four did not pay County fees and so, were not eligible to play in Kent run club competitions.

We are very grateful to Janice White, who has provided fantastic support this year to clubs in the most adverse of conditions. She has worked closely with the LTA South East Regional team whilst they contacted all clubs between them, within Kent, to check on their health.

Janice has also led on liaising with clubs to attend the Kent Tennis online Coffee Mornings, chaired by new Kent Tennis Officer Manager, Phil Lynch, and with excellent advice and discussions provided by Board of Management member, John Ratcliffe, in addition to Janice's own regular updates. The meetings held this year were:

- ▶ Kent Tennis Coffee Mornings – 14 online meetings held fortnightly on Tuesdays
- ▶ Kent Tennis Club Night In – first held in evening in October ahead of second national lockdown.
- ▶ LTA Regional Club forums – 4 online meetings held in summer available for Kent clubs to attend
- ▶ LTA club webinars held in October and November – these are on a variety of topics ranging from retaining membership and good governance through to social media made easy and creating effective digital marketing.

Across Coffee Mornings, Club Night In and Club Forums, we have been joined by a total of 172 people from 74 clubs; a record attendance. It really does seem like the Kent Tennis community has come closer together in times of adversity.

We took the opportunity to survey clubs in September to see how they had managed after their courts had opened back up again. With 50 clubs responding we were able to assess how well tennis was prospering in Kent. We had heard from clubs how well their courts were being used following the initial national lockdown and the key points the survey highlighted for Kent clubs were:

- ▶ Adult membership increased by 21%
 - ▶ Junior membership increased by 17%
 - ▶ 64% of volunteer led clubs now using ClubSpark (as opposed to 33% in 2019)
- The LTA helped The Sundridge Park Club with funding this year to commence work on two new Padel tennis courts which they look forward to having in place in 2021.
- A number of clubs took time out to upgrade facilities during the summer. Good examples were:
- ▶ University of Kent, Canterbury, opened 4 new indoor courts
 - ▶ Frindsbury LTC added one additional court
 - ▶ Herne Bay LTC completed their meticulously planned move to a new ground at the Herne Bay Sports Hub
 - ▶ St Johns TC, in addition to increased security, servicing and overhauling their floodlights and power washing all 4 hard courts, proceeded to transform the dormant Bowling Green into pop up grass courts.

There was no Kent Tennis Day in 2020.

Pictured below: St Johns TC's new grass courts in use.



Annual Awards

Kent Tennis has been running Annual Awards since 2004 and now participates and feeds into the nationally run LTA Tennis Awards process. The awards in 2020 were made on the basis of the preceding year's activity, with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award. This is given to someone who has provided exceptional service to tennis in Kent over a period of time, and who has gone above and beyond to help deliver or facilitate tennis in the county. Kent Tennis announced winners in 16 categories for 2019 with winners in 11 categories going forward to the next stage of the LTA regional awards. The next stage was the National Finals which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were held virtually online on 30th July. Members of Kent Tennis were invited to tune in via Zoom so that they could watch it online together.

Kent received 127 nominations across the categories which is the highest number of nominations ever received.

The Awards Committee shortlisted the nominations down to 3 for most categories and the names were announced at the 2019 AGM. All shortlisters were invited to the Annual Awards Dinner, which was held on 7 March 2020 at the Tudor Park Marriott Hotel in Bearsted and was attended by 190 people. The winners were announced by a different presenter for each category, 'Oscars' style. Sponsors, Trevor May and Head, provided the Club of the Year and Education prizes respectively. Full details of the County winners are in the

results section of this review.

Kent Tennis was delighted that two county winners were successful at the South East Regional stage: St. Peter's Church of England Primary School, Aylesford (Education Award) and The Sadie Bristow Foundation Competition (Competition of the Year).

Simon Grieve (Canterbury LTC – Performance Coach of the Year) and St. Peter's School were then awarded National Runners-Up.

We are also very proud to announce that we had two National Winners; Emma Raducanu (Girls Player of the Year) and Ben Gusic-Wan (Boys Player of the Year).

The process for the 2021 awards is now underway and Kent Tennis is once again hoping to make an impact. Nominations closed on 15 November, with the short list to be announced at the AGM on 7 December 2020 and the Awards Virtual Online Ceremony being held early in 2021.

Pictured below: Left – Lifetime Achievement Award – Peter Marshall (Frindsbury). Right – Kent (and National Runner-Up) Performance Coach of the Year – Simon Grieve (Canterbury).



Disability Tennis

Kent Tennis supports the role of a disability co-ordinator, covering the whole county, supporting clubs, coaches and tournament organisers to make tennis more inclusive. Of course, the pandemic has had an impact on progress in 2020. Activity, though, around the county has seen Avenue, Bromley Tennis Centre, Canterbury, Deal, Frindsbury, Parklangley, Shooters Hill, South East London Tennis (Ladywell Fields) and Whitstable all delivering regular disability tennis sessions.

Kent Tennis have 10 junior and 10 adult sports wheelchairs, which are now available for clubs to borrow to help grow Wheelchair Tennis within the county.

Although it has not been possible to grow disability tennis in 2020, the aim for 2021 is to engage as many clubs in Kent with disability tennis and help clubs become more inclusive. If you would like to know more, please contact tom.defrates@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk

Kent Tennis Coaches Network

The Kent Tennis Coaches Network (KTCN) was kicked off in 2018 to get coaches together to share coaching ideas and be part of a coach support network. The KTCN has grown in membership in 2020 from 77 to 144.

This year has been a strange and difficult one for many, but it did provide an opportunity for the KTCN members to support each other's development, albeit virtually. During lockdown the network held a series of webinars to help coaches understand how COVID-19 was going to affect their on court coaching. This then extended into webinars ranging from ways to benefit from marketing on social media to how to make a safe return to the court physically after an extended break. This would not have been possible without the help and expertise of various presenters: Sue Bamford, Tom Carlton, David Martins, Rob Smith, Suzanne Williams, Roberto Forzoni, Andy Knibbs and Rob Sheath. The feedback from these

webinars has been positive and, with the introduction of the LTA independent learning model, will allow coaches to access accreditation points following on from these sessions. Our thanks especially go to Luke House for leading the KTCN, and to Janice White in the Office Team for all her support once again.

Plans for the remainder of 2020 are to continue to help coaches access quality information through webinars for KTCN members. Looking ahead to 2021 we will certainly look to continue this success online but hope to be able to run some sessions live so we can all see each other outside of a small rectangle on a screen!

Kent Tennis Officials Network

The Kent Officials Network was set up in 2018 with an aim of bringing together on and off court officials in the County to share ideas and best practice and support each other in developing and learning, particularly for our less experienced officials. We have held three meetings throughout the year, each of which has been attended by between 15 and 20 referees, umpires and court supervisors. We have discussed and learnt together on a range of topics including:

- › grading structure for on-court officials
- › the various code and time violations that can be applied by officials
- › role of a court supervisor
- › the specific rules of officiating on clay courts
- › running of tournaments in a Covid-19 restricted environment
- › new competition management system introduced in 2020

At our latest meeting in October, we agreed that having the meetings by Zoom in 2020 as opposed to face to face at Bromley Tennis Centre had been successful. This had led to higher attendance levels and we would therefore host either all or a couple of meetings a year by the same medium going forwards. The meetings in 2021 will take place on the following Mondays: 25th January, 10th May and 11th October.

We would like to thank Jason baker for chairing/leading the Officials Network, Chris Mann for his significant contribution to the group and the sharing of his extensive knowledge and experience, as well as Andy Lucey for chairing one of our meetings in 2020, Harri Izzard and Charlie Falconer for their assistance with the administration.

If you like more information about the Officials Network or officiating in general please contact Jason Baker at jasonbakerp80jab@btinternet.com

Kent Tennis Supporters Club

The Kent Tennis Supporters Club is aimed at giving players and their families, coaches, volunteers and those with a general interest in tennis a way of keeping in touch with Kent Tennis and its activities, and show their support of what we do. The Club is open to anyone aged over 11 years. It costs £25 per year for individual membership. Once members have signed up, fees are collected by Direct Debit each October. The funds generated help support the work Kent Tennis does around the county, and membership of the club allows people interested in tennis to be offered the opportunity to enter a ballot for Wimbledon tickets, receive regular digital news updates from Kent Tennis and invitations to top quality, such as the Winter and Summer County Cup, County Championships Finals Day and the Kent Tennis Open Day.

There are currently 644 members in the Supporters Club.

We have temporarily suspended new membership to the Supporters Club whilst we review our offering in conjunction with the LTA. Once the review is complete, further information about any changes to the Supporters Club, and instructions on how to join, will be posted on the Kent Tennis website with links provided.

Safeguarding

Tennis should be played in a safe and inclusive environment. The Kent County Lawn Tennis Association shares the same values as its governing body, the Lawn Tennis Association, both on and off court to promote the Fair Play values: enjoy and respect. With those values in mind, Kent Tennis subscribes to the LTA's Safeguarding, Diversity and Disciplinary policies and regulations.

We are pleased to report that overall Welfare standards remain in good health in Kent with all the work that the clubs undertake, and there were no serious instances of poor safeguarding reported within Kent in 2020. All clubs and venues should now be displaying the "Safe To Play" cards issued in 2020 by the LTA.

Club Welfare Officers are supported by the LTA Regional Safeguarding Officer, Greg Pople. It is through Greg, the LTA undertakes Safeguarding support visits. and despite the difficult circumstances this year, 10 support visits have been undertaken (with all passing).

All club personnel need to be responsible for assisting the LTA Safeguarding team to promote and embed a culture of safeguarding in Kent so that all aspects become 'business as usual', and to ensure we have a safe and inclusive environment for all people to participate in tennis.

The further requirements to be put in place for Level 1 and 2 coaches in clubs has been postponed to 2021.

Safeguarding

Kent Tennis is committed to ensuring that its activities involving children and vulnerable adults are safe for all the participants. The Kent County Safeguarding Officer is Jim Barton.

If you have any concerns about behaviour at a Kent Tennis activity please contact Jim on 07803 368450 or safeguarding@kenttennis.org.uk. The County Safeguarding Policy is published on the Kent Tennis website.

Legal and Discipline

The Kent County Lawn Tennis Association has disciplinary jurisdiction over its members covered by the LTA's Disciplinary Code and the KCLTA Council has procedures in place to deal with any disciplinary matters. We are very grateful to Geoffrey Stephenson, our Board member responsible for Legal and Discipline, for his hard work and wise counsel on all disciplinary and legal matters. Pleasingly, as usual, there have been a very low number of disciplinary issues in the past year, all of which have been resolved satisfactorily.

Much of the active legal work in 2020 has related to Bromley Tennis Centre, as we work towards a permanent long-term solution. It is a complex matter, and naturally, in 2020, progress slowed down, but we are hopeful that we will have this resolved in 2021.

Wimbledon Tickets

Despite Wimbledon being cancelled in 2020, a significant amount of work was completed in allocating tickets to and communicating with various individuals in the County, before the decision was made that the event would not take place. For the record, Kent Tennis was allocated 791 pairs of tickets to distribute to Councillors, Sponsors, nominated volunteers, Supporters Club members and registered clubs. This volume of tickets was the same as in 2019. These tickets were in addition to the 2,364 pairs allocated by the LTA to clubs in Kent, which continue to be administered fully by the LTA via club ballots.

During 2020 there was an LTA central review about how LTA tickets will be allocated in the future. From 2021, tickets for LTA members

in venues will be centrally balloted; tickets for County sponsors and key volunteers will be offered to those nominated by their Counties; County Supporters Club members will be in a central ballot; and there will be new or enhanced central ballots for coaches, officials, and venue volunteers. More details of the process for 2021 will be communicated in due course.

The Wimbledon Ticket Committee worked very hard to handle this large administrative activity prior to the cancellation of the Championships and thanks go to John Darby, Joe Edwards, Catherine Edwards, Jacqueline Darby, Rosemary Lee, Tony Fisher, Phil Lynch and Jason Baker.

Subscriptions & Fees

The fees payable on registration for the 2020-21 year are shown below:

Package 1 - Club

	KENT TENNIS	LTA
1st Time Registration	£0	£120 per court
Less than 30 Members	£50	£120 per court
Total fee for Grass Courts in addition to Hard Courts Fees	£50	
Cost per Grass Court		£60 per court
1 Hard Court	£50	£120
2 Hard Courts	£100	£240
3 Hard Courts	£200	£360
4 Hard Courts	£200	£480
5 Hard Courts	£250	£600
6 Hard Courts	£250	£720
7 Hard Courts	£250	£840
8 Hard Courts	£250	£960
9 Hard Courts	£350	£1080
10 Hard Courts	£350	£1200
11 Hard Courts	£350	£1320
12 Hard Courts	£350	£1440

Package 2 Parks, Operators & Education

	KENT TENNIS	LTA
Parks with NO membership/coaching/comps	£0	£0
Parks with membership/coaching /comps	£100 per site (1st Time Registration = £0)	£60 per court
Education Establishment, NOT operated by a third party	£0	£0
Education Establishment – third party operator	£100 per site (1st Time Registration = £0)	£60 per court

Package 3 - Commercial and CITCs

	KENT TENNIS	LTA
Commercial / CITCs	As per package 1 above	£100 per court

Benefits of Kent Tennis Membership (County Fees):

- Interest free loans – up to £10,000 from County funds
- Entry into Kent Leagues
- Annual Awards and recognition for clubs, players and volunteers
- Annual dinner for the presentation of awards
- An invitation to the AGM
- The services of a club representative, who can keep you updated and put forward your thoughts to the Kent Tennis Council
- The KLT online – provided to every club in Kent. Also, every club has an opportunity to submit articles
- Paid support staff for volunteers - we have 3 part-time staff who provide their services to everyone within Kent Tennis, one way or another. Despite the many hours put in by volunteers there is still too much to do and the staff are much needed
- County Championships t-shirts, programme and trophies. These are paid for by extra Kent funds to enhance the championships experience
- Special events

FINANCIAL & COMMERCIAL

Financial Summary

Nigel Jordan, Honorary Treasurer



In this most extraordinary of years, it has been challenging to predict what our overall financial position would be at the year end, even though we tracked the financial impacts week by week. The pandemic restrictions have changed frequently affecting the tennis activity that could take place, and each change either reduced our expenditure or created an extra cost. Our desire to provide financial support so that the sport of tennis in Kent not only survives but comes out of the pandemic strong and sustainable also affected the position. My original budget forecast for the year was a loss of almost £41,000. So, to have reached the end of this financial year making a loss of only £20,842 feels respectable in these unusual circumstances.

Our receipts from registration fees and from the Supporters Club were in line with the forecast. We later refunded the Kent county fee to clubs and venues as part of the COVID-19 support measures. The biggest impact on our income was a £25,000 drop in sponsorship income – which is closely tied to the availability of tickets for the Wimbledon Championships which were, as you all know, cancelled quite early after lockdown started in March.

Repayments from clubs who have a small loan from Kent Tennis are fully up-to-date. Two clubs initially accepted the April payment holiday offered as part of the COVID-19 support package but one later caught up with its repayments. One new loan was made in the year and a further three more are in train, awaiting the completion of project works.

The various LTA and Government support packages provided support for coaches who worked 30+ hours a week. An initiative from the LTA requested counties to support coaches working 10-29 hours and Kent offered grant support to around 100 coaches on the LTA database with connections to the county who could potentially have been eligible. In the event, only 6 payments were made totalling £2,664. As floated in my report last year, we did consider the possibility of a loan scheme for coaches. But as that is a “regulated activity” we are not permitted to establish that. However, we will continue to work with the Coaches Network to find other options for supporting coaches.

Our expenditure has a most unusual look to it in 2020. Apart from the 18U Boys and Girls County Cup events, which took place in January, all of the other inter-county events this summer were cancelled, but it is worth saying that these accounts do reflect last winter’s County Cup. About 70% of the scheduled county training was completed although the final sessions were cancelled with refunds made as appropriate.

The winter Kent League competitions took place but all of the summer events were cancelled. We held over the entry fees we collected for the summer season and have applied them to the Winter 2020/21 season. Some clubs have a balance to pay, others have now received a refund of any surplus monies we hold. We did furlough our Competitions Manager for a while and received the appropriate support from Government.

Our two Performance Managers were in post at the start of the year but as activity was curtailed, so were our predicted costs. Their contracts ended on 30 June 2020. However, the constantly changing landscape did cause a very considerable amount of work for our Office Team – not least to ensure there was clear and speedy communication in a fast changing world. And, of course, we kept in touch with all our clubs and venues to monitor their situation, offering help and support when needed, ensuring we could report to the LTA an accurate picture as the pandemic progressed. Our Office Team have remained very busy throughout the summer so our administrative costs are only marginally different from the original projections.

Looking ahead, I predict our losses will increase when tennis returns to something like normality. All the pressure is in an upward direction. So, we will have to take a detailed look at how we can either increase income or reduce costs – preferably both! I had expected that the future of Bromley Tennis Centre would have been settled by now but that is yet to happen. That will remove a bit of uncertainty from our financial position.

It has been a very busy year and I should like to thank Phil, Harri and Janice (Kent Tennis Office Team) for their help and support. They have been terrific throughout the unusual situation we found ourselves in. I am equally grateful to our bookkeeper – Martin Leonard of Hayfield Bookkeeping. Thank you all.

Sponsorship

Kent Tennis continues to seek and maintain solid relationships with its sponsors. However, in 2020, the financial difficulties of a pandemic were felt by many and so we saw a reduction in our Sponsorship. We continue to look at maximising commercial revenue to support ongoing tennis initiatives across the county, and are very grateful to the following sponsors and the support they provide to Kent Tennis:

- ▶ Trevor May Contractors
- ▶ HEAD UK
- ▶ KEM
- ▶ East West Connect

It was great to see representatives from both Trevor May and East West Connect at the Kent Tennis Annual Awards event in March this year. Trevor May provided prizes to the winners of the Kent Clubs of the Year and HEAD UK provided prizes for the Education Awards. This event has helped to increase the profile and enhance engagement for our sponsors within the tennis community in Kent.

Kent Tennis will continue to look for new partners in 2021 and we are always happy to talk to potential supporters who can help to make this happen.

Kent Tennis Charity The Sadie Bristow Foundation



Prior to 2019, Kent Tennis had been active in supporting various charities and societies around the county but had not chosen to get behind a single preferred charity. This changed in 2019, when Kent Tennis agreed to support The Sadie Bristow Foundation.

Sadie Bristow was a talented nine year old tennis player from Chartham in Kent and a star in the Kent 9U team. She suffered a fatal anaphylactic shock in August 2018. Her parents, Stewart and Clare Bristow, plus friends, set up the Foundation in Sadie's memory to deliver two main objectives – to introduce tennis and athletics to more children in schools and to increase allergy awareness.

We are pleased to announce that the Sadie's Day Competition at Queen's Club we reported on in 2019 was the LTA's South East Regional Award Winner in the Competition Of The Year category, and was then announced as a National Finalist at the LTA's National online Awards Ceremony in July 2020.

In spite of the difficult climate this year, there has still been activity in 2020. The year started with the Sadie Bristow Inter-County Friendly between Kent and Surrey, involving 128 players from all ages from 8U to 18U, with a win for Surrey, on this occasion.

Following lockdown, there was a return to the schools tennis programme at Bridge and Patricxbourne Primary School, as well as other schools. The Foundation continues to work with schools to provide them with a comprehensive tennis and athletics learning module, designing sessions that will increase children's athletic abilities along with sport-specific skills for tennis, including setting online challenges during National School Sports Week at home 2020.

Further events included hosting an online design your own t-shirt competition in the summer, with the best designs selected winning a Wilson tennis racket, and a 16 hour tennisathon in October.

More activity is planned for 2021 to keep raising allergy awareness and introducing more children to tennis and athletics.



Account Summary 2020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the year ended 30 September 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
INCOME			
Registration Fees	2	92,290	91,536
Other external grants	3	5,000	8,175
Government furlough Covid support	4	2,135	-
Competitions	5	3,443	23,943
Commercial income	6	23,159	51,644
Interest (gross)		3,722	3,102
		129,749	178,400
EXPENDITURE			
Affiliation fees		250	250
Player Programmes	7	16,003	33,919
Inter County Competitions	8	13,146	52,660
Competitions	9	5,455	20,130
Business Operations	10	94,055	71,076
KLTA Covid support payments		21,064	-
Communications and Marketing	11	(353)	1,644
Depreciation		263	351
		149,884	180,030
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(20,135)	(1,630)
LESS: Corporation Tax	12	707	589
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		(20,842)	(2,219)

BALANCE SHEET

As of 30 September 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Long term use of Bromley Tennis Centre	1	170,000	170,000
Computer Equipment	1	790	1,053
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors & Prepayments	13	39,801	23,996
Bank Balances & Cash		435,639	475,183
		475,440	499,179
CREDITORS Amounts Falling Due Within One Year			
Loan	14	210,000	210,000
Accruals & Deferred Income		39,139	42,298
		249,139	252,298
NET CURRENT ASSETS		226,301	246,880
NET ASSETS		397,091	417,933
Financed By			
GENERAL RESERVE			
Balance at Beginning of Year		417,933	420,152
Surplus / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure for the year		(20,842)	(2,219)
Revaluation Reserve of long term lease	1	-	-
		397,091	417,933

Obituaries

Bernard Smith (1924-2020)

Sadly, this year, we lost former Kent Men's Captain (1968-72), Bernard Smith. Bernard made his debut for the Kent Men's team in 1949, received his County Colours in 1956 and played 52 times for Kent. He won 21 Kent County titles and was a member of the extremely strong Cyphers LTC teams after the war.

In addition to his tennis for Kent, Bernard, who worked for the Westminster Bank, represented the United Banks Lawn Tennis Association, and won a record 29 titles in their Annual Championships when the draws were full of fellow county players (and the occasional international player too). Bernard's skills went beyond the tennis court representing both Tulse Hill and the RAF at Hockey. He started playing golf in his fifties, had a handicap of 12, and remained a member of Sundridge Park Golf Club for 43 years.

Bernard's wife, Valerie, fondly recalled at his funeral, the adventures they had together, including the day their hot air balloon crash landed into a field full of cows, where they sat waiting their rescuers whilst calmly sipping the champagne they had taken with them on their balloon ride. Bernard's was a life well enjoyed with a love for all his family and friends.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to his wife Valerie, son Nicholas, stepson Clifford, granddaughters Laura and Amanda, step-grandsons Simon and Lee, four great-grandchildren, and all his many friends.

Peter Ford (1955-2020)

Regrettably, much loved Kent Seniors, Parklangley Club and David Lloyd Beckenham player, Peter Ford died suddenly this year, at the age of 65. Parklangley held a minute's silence in memory of Peter before their Kent Division 2 Veterans final on Sunday September 13th, a match in which Peter himself had been due to play.

Originally from Saltburn near Middlesbrough, Peter represented his adopted county of Kent in the Seniors on 23 occasions, having captained the Kent Men's 55s team from 2013 to 2015. He was Kent Men's 60s Singles Champion in 2019.

Peter embraced ITF Seniors tennis with a passion, playing regularly in a total of 88 tournaments since 2011, gaining an ITF world ranking of 246 in singles, 60 in doubles. He made many friends along the way, both on the ITF Seniors circuit as well as in county and club tennis. Peter was warm, very sociable, charismatic and great fun to be with. He'll be sorely missed.



Jean Rinkel-Quertier (1925-2019)

We learned belatedly of the death of past Kent and Grand Slam player, Jean Rinkel-Quertier in Rotterdam, Netherlands in 2019.

As Jean Quertier, she was world ranked in 1951 as No.6, represented GB in the Wightman Cup for 6 years and reached the final of the French Championships Mixed Doubles (1949). Jean also reached 10 Wimbledon quarter-finals, including 2 Ladies Doubles semi-finals. Jean was also singles quarter-finalist twice each at both the French and US Championships, as well as semi-finalist four times in the Ladies Doubles at the French Championships. In 1950, Jean won both the British Covered Court Singles and the Ladies Doubles at the Italian Championships. She was, until Virginia Wade came along, Kent's most consistently successful 20th century player.

Jean was Captain for Kent Ladies 1951-53, and received her County colours in 1949, representing Kent on 35 occasions. Born in Beckenham, and a member of the Parklangley Club, she met her future husband, Dutch Davis Cup player, Ivo Rinkel at Queens Club in 1946. Jean and Ivo settled in the Netherlands where they had two daughters. Jean went on to be a long-term Board member of the Victoria Tennis Club in Rotterdam. The Victoria Club gave her Honorary membership for her selfless dedication in training and helping junior players for over 50 years. It was pleasing to hear how much she gave back to the game she clearly adored. We remember Jean with great affection and send our condolences to her family and friends.



Brian Farmer (1929-2020)

Former Kent County LTA Councillor Brian Farmer, passed away this year. Brian was a member of Crockham Hill LTC and was the Managing Director of SW Farmer Group, who sponsored Kent Ladies County team from 1982 to 1987. Brian served on the Kent CLTA Council from 1983 to 1990, and was on the Fundraising Committee from 1983 to 1991. Brian was a regular visitor to County Cup Week each year, where he would catch up with many of his old Kent Tennis friends. Our thoughts are with Brian's family and loved ones.

RESULTS

National Achievements 2020

LTA Meritorious Service Award

Denis Costelloe was awarded the LTA Meritorious Service Award for his long service to Kent Tennis, stretching back over 50 years. Denis was Kent Tennis President, and is now Life Vice-President, and remains the North Kent LTA President. Denis first came into Kent's Council in 1985 and has been Kent's Publicity & Publications Chairman, one of its longest serving league organisers (27 years running Veterans), was joint editor of our 125th Anniversary Handbook, and also numerous roles since 1975 on North Kent LTA (including 17 years as Chairman) as well as too many roles to list here for Mount Pleasant Post Office LTC and Catford Wanderers LTC.

Denis has approached his volunteering in Kent tennis with a light touch, modest demeanour, pleasant manner and sense of humour which have helped to persuade many officers, councillors and potential volunteers to do things in the cause of Kent tennis that they may not have considered themselves capable of doing. Kent tennis has been privileged and fortunate to have been served so well by this fine County Cork man and we have no doubt that players and officials across the county would echo that sentiment.

ATP/ WTA World Ranked Players

(top 1000 only as at 3 Nov)

Ranking	Player
WTA Ladies Singles - 344	Emma Raducanu
WTA Ladies Singles - 806	Alice Gillan
ATP Mens' Singles – 550	Anton Matusevich
ATP Mens' Doubles – 787	Isaac Stoute

ITF World Ranked/Tennis Europe (TE) Ranked Junior Players

(top 200 only as at 3 Nov)

Ranking	Player
ITF Boys' 18U Singles - 35	Jack Pinnington Jones
TE Boys' 14U Singles - 134	Ben Gusic-Wan

Open Players

Event/Team	Great Britain representation
Federation Cup - GB Ladies	Emma Raducanu

Senior Players

Event	British Open Seniors Indoor Championships - Champions
Men's 35s Doubles	Zane Cheeseman & Stephen Weatherall

Junior Players

Event	Orange Bowl International Champions (Dec 2019)
Boys 12U Singles	Ben Gusic-Wan
Age Group	Great Britain representation
Boys 14U - TE Winter Cup	Ben Gusic-Wan

Road To Wimbledon

This event was cancelled in 2020; we hope to be able to report on this event in 2021

LTA Awards 2019

(presented in 2020)

Category	National Winner
Girls Player	Emma Raducanu
Boys Player	Ben Gusic-Wan

Category	National Runner-Up
Performance Coach	Simon Grieve
Education	St Peter's CofE Primary School, Aylesford

Category	South East Regional Winner & National Finalist
Education	St Peter's CofE Primary School, Aylesford
Competition	Sadie Bristow Foundation - Sadie's Day Competition

Event	County Winner
Player	Hazel Lindfield
Junior Player	Ben Gusic-Wan
Team	Men's Summer County Cup Team
Junior Team	9U Mixed Junior County Team
Club (5+ courts)	Frindsbury LTC
Club (1 to 4 courts)	Maidstone LTC
Community	Tennis For Free, Bromley
Education	St Peter's CofE Primary School, Aylesford
Performance Coach	Simon Grieve (Canterbury)
Club Coach	Nick Wibberley (Canterbury)
Volunteer	Lisa King (Sundridge Park)
Young Volunteer	Sophie Campbell (Shooters Hill)
Official	Susan Finch (Parklangley)
Competition	Sadie Bristow Foundation - Sadie's Day Competition
Disability Programme	Whitstable LTC
Lifetime Achievement Award	Peter Marshall

County Cup Results

Winter County Cup 2019 - MEN	Group 2b at Bromley Tennis Centre
Captain: Andy Burgoyne	Vice Captain: Alastair Filmer
Team:	Lewis Burton (3), James Davis (3), Alex De Sousa (2), James Markiewicz (3), Oliver Richards (1), Matthew Short (3), Matthew Summers (3), Sean Thornley (3)
Results:	Kent beat Herts 5-4, beat Berks 5-4, beat Staffordshire 6-3
Outcome:	1st - promoted to Group 1
Winter County Cup 2019 - LADIES	Group 1 at Bath
Captain: Holly Richards	Vice Captain: Jacqueline Darby
Team:	Florence Abbott (2), Tiegan Aitken (1), Gabby Chidwick (2), Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale (3), Alice Gillan (3), Sofia Johnson (3), Olivia Parson (3), Sophia Thomas (3), Sarah Wray (3)
Results:	Kent beat Middlesex 6-3, beat Essex 6-3, beat Surrey 5-4
Outcome:	1st - National Champions

Junior County Cup Results

County Cup - BOYS 18U	Group 2a at Redbridge
Captain: Rob Smith	Vice Captain: Tom Jarvis
Team:	Oscar Brown (3), Alex De Sousa (3), Tommy Harrison (3), Kristofer Johnson (2), Furqan Lawal (res), Tomas Paskauskas (2), Luca Pavan (1), Jack Pinnington Jones (2), Oliver Richards (3), Archie Turner (3), Kean De Villiers (2)
Results:	Kent beat Leicestershire 7-2, beat South Wales 6-3, beat Surrey 6-3
Outcome:	1st - promoted to Group 1
County Cup - GIRLS 18U	Group 2b at Bromley Tennis Centre
Captain: Pippa Lane	Vice Captain: Holly Richards
Team:	Skye Bentum-Siripi (res), Phoebe Ecuyer-Dale (3), Niamh Egan (3), Tabitha Howe (2), Sofia Johnson (3), Georgia Lancaster (1), Summer Reeves (2), Alaia Rubeio Perez (3), Emma Sawkings (3), Emma Slack (3)
Results:	Kent lost to Sussex 3-6, beat Warwickshire 6-3, lost to Lancashire 3-6
Outcome:	3rd - remain in Group 2

County Cup Competitions cancelled in 2020

The following events were cancelled in 2020: Men's & Ladies Summer County Cup, Junior County Cup for age groups 14U, 12U, 11U, 10U & 9U, and all Seniors County Cup events

Kent County Championships - Summers

This event was cancelled in 2020; we hope to be able to report on this event in 2021

Kent County Championships - Winter

Events	Champions	Runners Up
8U Boys Singles	Drew Baker	Gianluca Pascals
8U Girls Singles	Jessica Van Kets	Penelope Aidoo

Kent Seniors Championships – Winter

Events	Champions	Runners Up
45s Mens Singles	Peter Gillespie	Chris Smith
45s Mens Doubles	Peter Gillespie & Dave Smyth	Dave Butt & Tony Garrett
55s Mens Singles	John Watton	David McSorley
55s Mens Doubles	Peter Elsdon & Graham Miles	Mick Bull & Paul White
60s Mens Singles	Paul White	Matthew Greenhalgh
60s Mens Doubles	Brian Judd & Robert Thomson	Liam Griffith & Nigel Jordan
65s Mens Singles	Jasper Cooper	Chris Morgan
65s Mens Doubles	Jasper Cooper & Chris Morgan	Rob Andrew & Robin Garratt
70s Mens Singles	Peter Pharo	Keith Clark
70s Mens Doubles	Gordon Hayward & Peter Pharo	Keith Clark & Ray Murray
75s Mens Doubles	John Bland & Denis Costelloe	Brian Jelley & Graham Russell
40s Ladies Doubles	Gillian Newsom & Rachel Payne	Nicola Mileham & Irina Pastron
60s Ladies Doubles	Hazel Lindfield & Linda McSorley	Sheila Badger & Myra Hunter

Kent Summer Series Invitational events

Events	Champions	Runners Up
9U Mixed Singles	Justin Kravets	Tony Keohane
10U Boys Singles		
10U Girls Singles		
11U Boys Singles	Cameron Ano	Roshan Rao
11U Girls Singles	Bella Thomson	Charlotte Spratling
12U Boys Singles	Herbie Smith	Ed Thomas
12U Girls Singles	Anastasia Nahornaya	Ashleigh Hannah
14U Boys Singles	Isaac Forde	Kobi Smith
14U Girls Singles	Daisy Rowland	Chloe Cleaver
18U Boys Singles	Ethan Grant	Pranav Devaguptapu
18U Girls Singles		

County Colours Awarded 2020

Mens			
Nick Brookes		James Markiewicz	
Ladies			
Florence Abbott		Alice Gillan	
Sophia Thomas		Sarah Wray	
Junior Boys			
Alex De Sousa		Oliver Richards	Keean De Villiers

There were no County Colours awarded in 2020 for Seniors County teams

Kent Schools Tennis & Schools Team Tennis

These events were cancelled in 2020; we hope to be able to report on these in 2021

National League - Summer

Both Adult and Junior County Tiers were cancelled in 2020; we hope to be able to report on these in 2021

National League - Winter

Winter Team Tennis County Tier - Juniors

Age Group/Division	Boys Champions	Girls Champions
18U - Div. 1	Avenue	Sevenoaks Tennis Centre
18U - Div. 2	Sissinghurst	-
16U - Div 1	Canterbury	-
16U - Div 2	Horsmonden	Sevenoaks Tennis Centre
14U - Div 1	Sevenoaks Tennis Centre	Bexley
14U - Div 2	Avenue	Deal ITC
12U - Div 1	Sevenoaks Tennis Centre	-
12U - Div 2	Old Wilsonians	<i>Not completed</i>
10U	Parklangley	West Heath Tennis Centre
9U - Bromley area	Bromley Tennis Centre	<i>Not completed</i>
9U - Canterbury area	Brenchley & Matfield	-
8U - Kent	-	Parklangley
8U - Wimbledon group	Canterbury	-
8U - Australian Open group	Sevenoaks G	-
8U - French Open group	Hythe	-
8U - US Open group	Canterbury B	-

Kent Inter-Club Doubles Leagues - Winter

Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	Bexley	Sundridge Park	Sundridge Park
2	Freedom Leisure	Tunbridge Wells 2	Blackheath 2
3	Margate	Gravesham	Gravesham
4	Tunbridge Wells 3	Sydenham	Bethersden
5	David Lloyd Kings Hill 3	Margate	Beckenham
6	Bexley 3	Avenue	Blackheath 3
7	David Lloyd Kings Hill 4	David Lloyd Beckenham 3	Beckenham 3
8	Canterbury 5	South Hill Woods	Shooters Hill
9	Bearsted & Thurnham 3	-	-
Division	Veterans Men's 45s	Veterans Ladies 40s	Veterans Men's 60s midweek
1	Tunbridge Wells	Bromley LTC	Canterbury
3	Hayes	Margate	Tunbridge Wells
4	Bearsted & Thurnham 2	-	Catford Wanderers
Division	Veterans Men's 70s midweek	Veterans Ladies 60s midweek	
1	Canterbury	Herne Bay	
2	-	Bexley	

Affiliated District League Results

Ashford & District League - Winter

Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	Charing	Headcorn	Hythe
2	Hythe B	Bethersden	Woodchurch

Deal Indoor Winter League

Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	Deal ITC	Hythe	Hythe
2	Deal ITC 3	-	-

North Kent LTA League - Winter

Division	Mens	Ladies	Mixed
1	Bromley Wendover	Sundridge Park	Sundridge Park
2	Blackheath	Bexley 2	Sundridge Park 2
3	Sundridge Park 2	Bromley CC	Sundridge Park 3
4	Bexleyheath 2	Sundridge Park 4	Shooters Hill 2
5	Sidcup Recreation 1	Bromley CC 2	-
6	Beckenham	-	-
Division	Veterans Mixed Midweek		
1	Bexley		
3	Sundridge Park		
4	Sundridge Park 2		



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