KENT PLAYS HOST TO THE
BNP PARIBAS DAVIS CUP
TROPHY TOUR
TROPHY TOUR COMES TO KENT
8th June 2016

CANTERBURY LTC
(Polo Farm)
10am - 1pm

&

BROMLEY TENNIS CENTRE
4 - 8pm

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The LTA has launched a national Trophy Tour of Great Britain with the Davis Cup, following Great Britain’s historic win against Belgium, hoisting the Trophy for the first time in 79 years.

The LTA want the nation to help celebrate this momentous occasion by delivering a Trophy Tour that will begin in Scotland from the start of April and will be visiting every county and major tennis tournament over the coming months.

The Davis Cup Trophy Tour will visit more than 50 venues across the nation including tennis clubs, parks, communities, leisure centres, town halls and shopping centres. The Trophy Tour aims to thank the tennis community including players, coaches, venues and volunteers who have supported the team on this incredible journey and inspire a new generation to pick up a racket and get involved in tennis.

The events are free for all to attend and venues hosting a Davis Cup Trophy Tour can be found here: www.lta.org.uk/daviscuptrophytour

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Davis Cup Trophy up close and on your doorstep.

The BNP Paribas Davis Cup Trophy is Coming to Kent on Wednesday 8th June 2016.

Following Great Britain’s Historic Davis Cup Win, The BNP Paribas Davis Cup Trophy is Coming to Kent on 08/06/2016. Everyone is welcome to visit either Canterbury Lawn Tennis Club or Bromley Tennis Centre to see the Trophy. Join in or watch the activities on offer.

**Canterbury LTC (10am – 1pm)**

Head down to the Canterbury Lawn Tennis Club at Polo Farm where the Cup will be on public display in the indoor tennis centre. Bring your racquet to play on the club’s clay courts or take part in a drop-in beginners’ coaching clinic. Watch demonstrations and exhibition matches by some of the county’s top juniors, wheelchair tennis players and Canterbury Christchurch University teams.

- Tea, coffee and refreshments available.
- Special programme of events for schools.

To book activities go to:
Clubspark.lta.org.uk/opendays/canterburyltc/wednesday08june

**Bromley Tennis Centre (4 – 8pm)**

The BNP Paribas Davis Cup Trophy will be on display as part of the BTC Tennis Festival celebrating the 2015 Team GB win. There will be lots to do or watch including

- Beginner Taster Sessions
- Beat The Pro Competitions
- Club, County and National Junior Player Demos and Exhibitions

To book activities go to:
Clubspark.lta.org.uk/OpenDays/BromleyTennisCentre/Wednesday08June
or by visiting the BTC website www.bromleytenniscentre.co.uk
The first few months of 2016 have been taken up with enlisting coaches across the County to support the LTA's Davis Cup coaching legacy initiative. As many of you will have heard, off the back of the historic Davis Cup victory at the end of last year, the LTA is funding free coaching lessons for 5-8 year olds who are new to the game and we have been hard at work securing applications from coaches and clubs to host these free sessions. A very big thanks is due to John Ratcliffe, who has led this effort in Kent, and he had successfully secured 60 applications against a target of 43, so a fantastic response. In addition we are organising the Davis Cup trophy to visit Kent and I am pleased to report that we will be hosting the trophy on June 8th and it will be visiting Canterbury LTC (10-1) and the Bromley Tennis Centre (4-8).

As a Board one of our key responsibilities is to ensure we are managing our financial affairs in a prudent way. One of our largest expense as a County is the provision of financial support for all our county teams and this was an important topic for the Board earlier this year. I am pleased to report that we agreed to maintain our support at current levels across all our teams and also managing to provide a small increase to our O35’s teams. This does mean though that we have to ensure our income into the county remains strong and we have been focussing on increasing our sponsorship support as a result. The good news is that we have secured new sponsors as well as retaining most of our existing ones so our forecast income in this area will hopefully be sufficient to help balance our books. One important change we have made is to introduce a local firm (Tennisys) to become the official supplier of balls and kit to the county (and its inter club competitions) through their relationship with Head. This is an excellent new arrangement for Kent and offers all clubs the ability to purchase balls at a good rate and also enables up to provide new team kit to all our county teams.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Geoffrey Stephenson onto our Board. Geoffrey has a wealth of experience in the County from his time on Council and will I’m sure prove a valuable addition, particularly when it comes to the navigating our way through the intricacies of rule changes and governance matters.

One of our other important areas of focus at this early stage of the year is to make sure we have an agreed set of priorities and a plan of all the things that we want to achieve in 2016. The Board, at its planning day at the end of 2015, formulated a plan which should serve us well through what will be another busy & challenging year as we focus our priorities on:

- working with the LTA to roll-out key initiatives, such as the Davis Cup legacy programme, the Great British Tennis Weekend & Venue Forums
- working with the LTA Regional team to ensure Kent clubs are fully supported
- enlisting more volunteer support, particularly in the area of competitions
- continuing to ensure we have sufficient income coming into the county either through the County Fee, the Supporters Club or attracting and retaining sponsors
- looking at ways to better promote Kent Tennis, reviewing website, social media and communications.

So plenty to do for the year ahead and I look forward to keeping you up to date with progress as we move ahead.

Malcolm Smith, Chairman of the Board
The Summer season is now beginning to increase in momentum, the grass courts are in play and there is much to look forward to this summer. There is much to look back on too as this issue shows.
It has been a great and active winter for Kent teams, players and clubs. Once again we excel in a County Cup event, this time the 14&U’s. Wilderness Golf Club was packed out for a splendid awards evening, in a new format and went down exceedingly well, as can be seen by all of the photographs.
The biggest event as far as the County is concerned (in case you had not already noticed) is that the Davis Cup tour is coming to a town near you. Kent have 2 venues who are lucky enough to host these events. If you have the chance to get along to either Canterbury LTC or to Bromley Tennis Centre please take some photos and let us have your story with the cup for the next edition. Be as creative as you like. - Read on, I hope you enjoy.

Graham
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TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY.
Chris Howard has been named the Aegon Coach of the Year for 2015 after his inspiring work increasing participation in Lewisham.

Coach of the Year Chris, the face of Community Tennis at Ladywell Fields and Lewisham Tennis, now has more than 260 juniors and adults who regularly play at sessions he facilitates. The programme runs 25 hours per week at three different venues offering indoor and outdoor junior coaching for 4-18 year-olds, adult Cardio Tennis, Tennis Tuesdays and Tennis Xpress.

One of Chris' main achievements is offering free tennis coaching to over 640 primary and 260 secondary school children through initiating programmes from a number of funding bodies, with 20% accessing the additional sessions offered. He has also helped to train up a number of keen young tennis players who want to work in the sport. He is a huge role model for coaches looking to expand into the community.

1. Three main tips for an aspiring coach?
Create an enjoyable learning environment in your sessions and have fun yourself as if you don't enjoy the session your players are likely to feel the same way. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. I have made lots of mistakes in my career but I am definitely a better coach by learning from them. It's what we ask our players to do! Be a role model to your players and your colleagues

2. Coaching career highlight?
Apart from winning this award and the Community Coach Award, it was fantastic to be recognised for our work in the local community. South East London Tennis won the Lewisham Business Award for social enterprise by developing partnerships to offer initiatives such as free tennis to primary and secondary schools and wheelchair tennis.

3. Greatest achievement?
To have been involved with setting up a Community Tennis Programme in Ladywell Fields, Lewisham, starting with 6.5 hours of drop in only sessions in the park and now offering 24.5 hours across a number of venues.

4. Stats, how much you have increased participation in your venue?
In two years we have gone from zero participation to over 260 juniors and adults who regularly play at our drop in and bookable sessions.

5. Programmes that you run in your venue?
South East London Tennis runs a Community Tennis programme at number of local venues Ladywell Fields Ladywell Centre Sports Hall and Prendergast School. Across these venues we offer mini tennis sessions for 4-10 year-olds, Juniors 11+, Adult Cardio, Adult Beginners, Adult Improvers, Tennis Tuesdays, a Community Satellite Club for 11-16 year-olds and we are just about to start regular wheelchair tennis sessions. Many of these sessions are drop in.

6. Who has been most influential in your career and why?
My wife Jane has been the most influential person in my coaching career. Having previously worked in IT, Jane fully supported my career change. In the early days we worked the coaching around starting a family and 13 years later her support has been unwavering, allowing me to have fun with the sport I love. This award is dedicated to her.

7. What motivates you most about your job?
Giving kids the opportunity to play tennis that wasn't there before and seeing them develop and grow not only as players but as people.

8. Your coaching career in just one word?
Journey
We are sometimes asked about how teams are selected. Players want to know what they have to do, or have to achieve, in order to be considered. As a county we are committed to making the process as fair and as transparent as we can.

We have both a men’s and ladies’ Kent Open team. These teams are for players of any age but in reality most players fall into a range between 19 and 34 years old. The events they play are the Summer County Cup – which is just doubles - and Winter County Cup, which is both singles and doubles.

Ratings and ranking are used as a guideline, but are a totally ineffective method for the selection of partnerships for doubles. So for the summer events the captain and the vice-captain work together, basing selection on their broad knowledge of the players all over the county. Our captains are experienced players themselves and know all their fellow players who should be considered. They also liaise with the captains of the under 18 teams, the coaches at our High Performance Centre, Bromley Tennis Centre to maintain an in-depth knowledge of up-and-coming players. Juniors are more likely to start in the winter event & if successful, maintain their place through to the summer.

Next the county has men’s and ladies’ over 35s teams. The men’s and women’s 35 Inter-County Championships are held at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. Forty-four counties, divided into eleven groups of four teams, take part over three days in August each year. With the 35’s playing both singles and doubles during the competition.

Team selection largely follows from earlier performance in the county’s open team, so is based on player rating & ranking, the captains’ knowledge of existing players, team trials and practice sessions, and in reality player availability is often a factor too.

Throughout the summer, the county has senior teams for both men and ladies. The ladies teams run from over 40s, over 45s etc. up to over 75s. The men’s teams start at over 45s and continue through to over 75s. Each team plays 4 or 5 matches against other counties in a divisional competition which runs throughout the summer months.

Given family and work pressures, players may not wish to play for their county for many years, but later decide to return to top level competition. That means selection cannot be based on ranking and rating alone, but involves a greater consideration of results in league and other competitive matches. And it is fair to say that the element of personal knowledge required of captains increases incrementally from the younger teams to the older ones. For men who would like to be considered for these senior teams there is the winter seniors singles and doubles event which can help a player get noticed and prove their ability should their current rating not truly reflect that. However, the equivalent ladies seniors’ events no longer run through a lack of interest – which is a shame. All the captains are happy to hear from players interested in being considered.

Last but by no means least – our junior teams. The county runs teams for juniors at 9 & under (which is a mixed boys and girls team), and then separately for boys and girls teams at 10 & under, 12s, 14s, and 18 & under.

The process is broadly similar across the junior age brackets but there are some differences. Team selection is an impartial process led by the team captain and vice-captain and/or team manager. Selection is mainly based on ranking, rating and results. However a number of factors such as recent form and knowledge of players - reliability, foreseeable physical fitness, conduct, and a player’s ability to work within the team are also taken into consideration.

In the 9&U age group 8 players (4 boys and 4 girls) will be invited to attend selection squads. In the 10&U age group, up to 6 boys and 6 girls will be invited to attend selection squads with 4-5 girls and 4-5 boys being selected. These teams are selected based on the information above with a focus on how players competed over the current and previous season.

In the 12&U, 14&U and 18&U age groups, 4 players are given direct acceptance
based on their ranking on the date of selection. In the 12&U age group a
squad of 4-5 players can be selected. In the 14&U age group a squad of 5-6
players can be selected, and in the 18&U age group a squad of 6-10 players
can be selected. The remaining places in these 3 teams can be wildcard
selection or the next player(s) on the rankings list.

Wildcard selections may be invited to attend training sessions, asked to
participate in a play-off match or be selected as a result of training sessions.
The team captain will make final decision on the team and the number of
players they take.

Nigel Jordan

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEAM</th>
<th>CAPTAIN</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s open</td>
<td>Andy Burgoyne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:andyburgoyne@hotmail.com">andyburgoyne@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Rob Searle</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robthepearl@hotmail.com">robthepearl@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ladies open</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:holly_richards2@hotmail.com">holly_richards2@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>(vice captain)</td>
<td>Jacqueline Darby</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john@darby.uk.net">john@darby.uk.net</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:OFreelove@marexspectron.com">OFreelove@marexspectron.com</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:sagent@eastbourne-college.co.uk">sagent@eastbourne-college.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s over 75s</td>
<td>Stephen Woodley</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sc.woodley@btinternet.com">sc.woodley@btinternet.com</a></td>
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For information on Junior County Cup
teams and captains,
please contact Harri Izzard on
harri.izzard@kenttennis.org.uk

www.kenttennis.net Page 9
Kent drove in to town late on the Thursday night, slightly thin on the ground, but with spirits high ready for the battle ahead to regain division 1 status. We were in a strong group 2 with Yorkshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire who were all virtually at full strength.

Day 1 vs Norfolk

We lined up with two debuts at 6 and 5 in Ethan O’Reilly and Alex Juniper. These two strong juniors were pitted against a couple of experienced former ATP ranked players for Norfolk. Alex at 5 looked confused as his 40 year old opponent had no interest in rallying and approached the net at every chance, Alex fought hard and had his chances, but experience won and we were one down. Ethan started nervously and lost an easy first set. Captain Burgoyne goes on to court on the set break and reminds Ethan that he is fitter and stronger than his veteran opponent and that longer rallies were the key. Ethan quickly took this on board and ran his opponent again and again until he felt like he was being tortured by the white horse of Kent.

Great win in three sets and we were level, 1-1. The familiar face of Jim May arrived on court at number 4 and played a first game that suggested his warm up was not sufficient! But form is temporary and class is permanent as his opponent learnt quickly with May playing points that belonged in a Wimbledon final from the late 1980's hitting flat and following in to the net, awesome win and we were 2-1 up. Tom Wright was at 3 and Issac Stoute at 2, both with tough matches. Issac started badly and his experienced opponent never let him get in to a rhythm, mixing up his game to perfection and before we knew it, it was 2-2. Meanwhile Wright was also struggling and the momentum was slipping away from the mighty Kent and at lunchtime things were starting to look shaky as Wright had lost and Kent’s number 1 for the weekend Matt Short was on Court with Captain Burgs already a set down to a class Norfolk number 1. Short assured his Captain that he would be okay, but he was wrong, he was way more than okay and in the match of the weekend Matt saved 5 match points to win an incredible match and tie things up at 3-3. Luckily Kent are known for being so strong in the doubles, surely we were favourites. Favourites we may have been, or maybe not, but at the close of play Matthew’s heroics in the singles were wasted as May and Burgoyne, Stoute and Juniper, Short and Wright all lost tight matches.

The mood in the camp was not great, and at these times this is when you expect the Captain to rally the troops, but on this occasion it was the rookie Ethan O’Reilly who invented a new sport later known as ‘O’Reilly Ball’. A combination of water volleyball and touch tennis galvanised the team and as we finished dinner we may have lost the battle, but the war was still up for grabs as the door to the hotel swung open and Rob Searle and Paddy May entered to bolster the team roster. Watch out Yorkshire, we are ready!

Day 2 vs Yorkshire

With Yorkshire having beaten Lincs comfortably, the men of Kent could still gain promotion if we could win our remaining two ties comfortably and with a strong line up it was all to play for. At 6 Paddy May came in and got us off to a good start with some controlled aggression and power. At 5 Jim May was back on court and after a tough first day, would he start better today? Boom, not better, way better, and his opponent had no answers for Jim’s silky smooth timing and it looked all the way a Kent win, but the Yorkshire number 5 had his own ideas and lifted his game to edge out May in three sets, 1-1. Meanwhile Tom Wright had entered the building determined to improve on yesterday’s singles and with a personal score to settle against an opponent who had beaten him last time out. Tom was up for it today and it was a great battle to watch, but after a couple of hours Tom was match point down and wrong footed in the corner. His opponent was outstretching his hand to shake when Wright dived like a goal keeper and somehow got the ball back over the net! The Yorkshireman put his hand back on the racket but missed an open court with the volley. This turned the match as Wright turned up the volume for a massive come from behind win, 2-1 Kent. Robbie Searle in at 3 had been told by the physio that his shoulder would be fine and that he was okay to compete. Even the iron will of Rob could not fight through this one and sadly lost easily to a strong player in straight sets. It was sad to see, but Rob would play no further role in the weekend on the court as he was un able to serve properly and Kent were 2-2. In steps Stoute, removed his headphones and put on an exhibition of incredible movement, huge forehands and crazy dropshots. Ethan O’Reilly who considered himself the dropshot king was taking notes on the side and looked astounded as Issac played a 360 spin side spin drop shot. Ethan nodded with approval as Issac shook hands and gave Kent the lead again 3-2. Matt Short meanwhile was a set down in another high quality match, but time told and Shorty was too strong mentally leaving Kent on the brink at 4-2 up.

So to the doubles, Wright and Burgoyne at 3 took the first set and looked strong, but somehow ended up losing 10-8 in the championship tie break. Paddy May and Issac Stoute at 2 were outplayed at 2 and all of a sudden it was all on Jim May and Matt Short. The atmosphere was electric and the match very tight and high quality all round when something happened, something that no Yorkshireman wanted to see, Jim ‘Gandalf’ May lifted his staff and cast a spell on the ball and it would only do what he wanted! Incredible lift in level from Jim
and relentless play from Shorty and Kent had the win, 5-4

Day 3 vs Lincolnshire

The referee had told us that if Yorkshire beat Norfolk 5-4 and we beat Lincs 7-2 then we were up to group 1. Looking at the order this was a possibility as Lincs were struggling in doubles, so if we could do well in the singles maybe, just maybe momentum could take us all the way.

We lined up with Jim May, Alex Juniper and Paddy May all on at once in the lower order. Jim at 4 was looking a little jaded and perhaps out of spells and went down in three sets, 1-0 Lincs. Juniper, not looking good and not playing well was down. Paddy May was looking hot but was also a set down. Juniper who was poor in the ‘O’Reilly Ball’ world cup the previous evening didn’t look happy, but equally didn’t look ready to lose. He fought and fought and somehow got to a set all. Meanwhile Paddy was also a set all, surely we couldn’t go 3-0 down? Then we were reminded that the Men of Kent are strong, whether young or old, they don’t give up, they do not bend and the white horse of Kent trampled through the third sets and we were 2-1 up, division 1 was a long way away, but maybe just in sight. Wright, Stoute and Short on court, a strong threesome. Wright fast out of the blocks today and too strong for his opponent and we were 3-1 up.

Stoute looked like he was winning every rally, but somehow was a set down and Shorty also followed his daily pattern of being a set down. Then we were dealt a hammer blow as the Referee was made aware that his maths was not correct and Kent needed to win 8-1 and we had already lost 1! The players didn’t know, but as Short won again and Issac lost the weekend had tragically come to a close with us being painfully close to promotion.

Summary

So close but yet so far, the players gave everything, but being a few players short for the whole weekend, but in particular the Friday had cost us dear. It’s always tough when a team that you beat get up ahead of you, but credit to Yorkshire who did beat Norfolk 5-4 to gain promotion. So with the knowledge that we were potentially only a match short over the weekend we lick our wounds and prepare for another battle on another day. May all who were injured heal, and all who were unavailable be ready to fight for the Garden on the lawns of Eastbourne come summer.

Andy Burgoyne
Mens Captain

Vanessa Johnson

Yes, Vanessa Johnson had one match for the Kent 50 side in 2006 and 3 times for the 55 side in 2012.

For the next KLT mention that she was overlooked along with Audrey Goodworth who played 4 times for the 55 side in 2013 and Sally Ring who made 3 appearances for Kent also in 2013.

Denis Costelloe
Meet the Captain

Andy Burgoyne – Captain of the County Men’s Open team

Andy is currently the Captain of the Men’s Open Team. Here’s your chance to find out a bit about him as we did a 180 second interview with him...

Tell us a bit about your early tennis career please?
I started my tennis career at Upper Sydenham Tennis Club (which no longer exists) when I was about 9 or 10 years old. I later played at Sydenham, and then in Surrey at what is now Virgin Active in Croydon where I still play today. I coached in Kent for many years at Sevenoaks School, at Sundridge Park LTC and then at Bromley Cricket Club where I also became club manager. Today I run the tennis coaching programme at Limpsfield LTC which is right on the border between Surrey, Kent and Sussex.

Andy was nominated in the 2015 Kent Awards for Senior player of the Year. He narrowly missed out to Hazel Lindfield who was the 2015 award’s recipient.

These are just a few of Andy’s achievements in 2015:
Runner-up British Seniors Over 35s Doubles.
Represented GB in Men’s Over 40s.
Led the Kent Men’s team to 2nd in Div 1 Summer County Cup.
Led the Kent Men’s team to 3rd in Div 2 in Winter County Cup.

What does your Captain’s role entail?
I am responsible for selecting the team players, communicating with players and officials, booking accommodation, transport, food and anything else we need for a match, as well as organising practice sessions to maximise our chances of success.

How long have you been involved in the county teams for Kent?
A long time! Firstly as a player in 1990/91 and then as vice-captain for many years, and then as Playing Captain from 2009 to today.

What format are the matches in which you play?
We play two main events: The winter event comprises 6 singles and 3 doubles matches and the summer event involves 9 doubles matches played by 3 pairs. We are permitted to take a squad of up to 10 players for each event.

How do you go about picking the right players for an event?
Mostly it is down to personal knowledge, especially in relation to players who are over 18. However I keep an eye on results and stay I’m touch with what’s happening out there in tournaments. Of course, juniors improve very quickly at times so I rely on the coaches at the high performance centres like Bromley and on our under 18 Captain Alastair Filmer to keep me well informed.

How would someone moving into the county make it known to you that they’d like to be considered for selection?
Because Kent is a high level County I am confident that the combined knowledge of the regular squad members and myself most people coming in to the County would be known to us and we would almost certainly be in touch with them before they have a chance to call us! However new players can always contact me direct via email on andyburgoyne@hotmail.com

Tell us something that not many people know about you?
I’m a low handicap golfer; I like to cook and especially to bake as the county team knows when our County Week starts with Captains cakes!

Thank you Andy. Good luck with the summer 2016 season!

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Sponsors of Kent LTA
The Kent Mens Veterans finals were held at the Bromley Tennis Centre Newstead Orpington on Sunday March 20th attracting a sizeable attendance. The week-end itself had been memorable sportswise on the national scene. England rugby men had won the grand slam seeing off France in Paris 31—21, our Cricket side had made it to the latter stages of the World 20-20, Leicester, most neutrals hope of winning the premier football league defeated Crystal Palace and Ruby Walsh the Cheltenham champion jockey had given myself and others a glorious financial pick me up at the Cheltenham Festival. So what then of the Kent mens veterans.

Bob Whiteheads reign as the 55 singles champion came to an end as did Bob Milner’s in the 70 singles. Keith Clark and Gary Sims suffered their first ever final defeat in the 65 doubles and a new name, Adrian Moll appeared on the 45 singles winners scoreboard. There were a few missing regulars, notably Niall Sweeney, Phil Lynch, Jasper Cooper, Colin Dancey, Stuart Smith, Rob Andrew, mainly down to injury which meant that we had three walk–overs. Bob Whitehead had a w.o. due to Jasper Coopers injury in the 60 singles to extend his unbeaten run to five years in a row. Chris Mackenzie and David Willan got a walk over from Jasper Cooper and Bob Whitehead to take the 60 doubles and Keith Clark and Gary Simms making their debut in the 70 doubles received a walk over from the injured Colin Dancey and Vic Chance.

On then to the games that did take place. First of all the unexpected fall of the 65 doubles champions Keith Clark and Gary Sims, a pair who were bidding to win the title for the sixth year in a row. Their opponents Chris Mackenzie and Peter Pharo took the game to the holders right from the start with Peters penetrating return of service and the net play of Chris giving them a well deserved 6-4 first set. The expected fight back from the holders never materialised and with the challengers never giving an inch, they won the second set 6-3. The Clark and Sims reign was over. Bob Milner, the holder of the 70 singles found that the new arrival, in this age group, one Keith Clark possessed more speed around the court to return with vengeance anything that Bob threw at him and Keith ran out a comfortable 6-3 6-2 winner. And it was a rather similar story in the 55 singles when new boy John Watton ended Bob Whiteheads eight year, yes eight year winning sequence. John, himself a six in a row 45 winner moved up to the 55 age group to see off Bob on a 6-2 6-4 scoreline. Peter Pharo retained his 65 singles but was taken to three sets by his doubles partner Chris Mackenzie before emerging victorious 6-4 6-7 6-4. The 55 doubles featured Colin Edmonton and John Hobdell up against Mick Bull and Paul White with little form for spectators to go on to select the likely winners. The Bromley pair of Colin and John had a fairly easy straight sets 6-3 6-1 victory.

The two best and most exciting matches of the day came in the 45 events starting with the long gruelling singles battle between the losing 2015 finalist Adrian Moll and the current Kent Secretary Jason Baker. Both players produced wonderful sliced attacking back hand shots mixing in lots of powerful cross court forehands as well. Add to these some perfectly placed drop shots, the match turned into a battle of fitness and endurance. Moll grabbed the first set on the tie break, but Baker took control of the second to win 6-2. The final set to quote the late comedian Frank Carson was a “cracker”, not because of any good humour or jokes between the two contestants, but rather the pressure to hit some great winners and yet failing to hold service. Eventually Moll served at 5-4 up, Baker saved two match points before Moll’s lethal backhand saw Jason net the return. Adrian raised his fist in triumph as well he may. A great game to watch but strength sapping to the players who simply gave their all. I cannot wait to see a return match, that’s if both men make it to the 2017 final.

The 45 doubles final produced another great contest featuring, who else, but Mr Moll partnering Nigel Cannon against his singles adversary Mr Baker with Andrew Dawson by his side. We were treated to a sea saw struggle with Moll and Cannon winning the first set 6-2 ,going down 6-7 in the second to bring us to the championship tie break . Cue for some exceptional rallies , some great winners down the line before Adrian and Nigel triumphed 12-10 . Well deserved applause all round

New Kent President Denis Costelloe accompanied with his minder made the presentation while acknowledging the work done by Keith Clark in his first year as tournament organiser . Behind every successful man is a surprised woman so they say and Denis also thanked Gwen Clark for guiding husband Keith on the right path . Must not forget Austin Smith now a Life President of Kent who was a welcomed visitor
Kent Winter Winners

Mens
1. Bexley 1
2. Parklangley 1
3. Tunbridge Wells 2
4. Hartley CC
5. Canterbury 3
6. Canterbury 4
7. Brenchley and Matfield 1
8. Shooters Hill 2
9. David Lloyd, Kings Hill 5

Mens Vets
Div 1
1. Bromley Wendover 1
2. Sevenoaks 1
3. Blackheath
4. Knoll 2

Mens 60
Division 1
1. Canterbury 1
2. Horsmonden
3. Bexley

Mens 70
Canterbury

Ladies Vets
Div 1
1. Bromley LTC 1
2. Canterbury 1
3. Gravesham
4. Chipstead Place

Ladies 60
Bearsted and Thurnham

Ladies 60
Bearsted and Thurnham

Ladies
1. Parklangley 1
2. Walmer
3. Broadstairs 1
4. Freedom Fitness 1
5. Gravesham 1
6. David Lloyd, Kings Hill 2
7. Canterbury 3
8. Tunbridge Wells 5

Report from: Kent Messenger
The Kent Messenger Mens Veterans Finals took place at the Tunbridge Wells indoor Centre in April. The tournament celebrated its 20th birthday with a large cake, suitably endorsed as the organiser Phil Pretty paid tribute to both winners and losers on two decades of some wonderful finals. Results 50 Singles - John Watton beat Stuart Lancaster 6-0 6-1, 60 Singles Steve Williams beat Bill Thursby 6-4 4-6 after Thursby retired with cramp. 65 Singles David Menzies beat John Donaghy 4-6 6-3 (10-4 ). Doubles Results. 50 | 60 Rob Andrew and Robin Garrett beat Ray Murray and David Neal 6-2 7-5, 70 Doubles Keith Clark and Gary Sims beat Geoff Cannon and Brian Robinson 6-2 3-6 (10-6 ), 75 Doubles Keith Clark and John Hills beat Denis Costelloe and Derek Taylor 4-6 6-4 (10-8 ). Finally Geoff and Nigel Cannon beat Alan Mabey and John Donaghy in an event where the pairs combined ages has to be 100 years and over. Keith Clark on behalf of the players thanked Phil Pretty who has been the competition organiser for number of years. In response Phil acknowledged the contribution made by Gary Sims as well as thanking Charley Falconer and the Umpires Association for their appearance.
Saturday 30th April
Kent v Berkshire
1. Jack Pinnington Jones
2. Oliver Richards
3. Oscar Brown
4. Alex De Sousa
D1. Pinnington Jones & Prince
D2. Richards & De Villiers

With such a solid squad this year my goal was to make sure all of the boys played as much as possible, whilst maintaining our best chance of qualifying. Oscar despite a fall and cut knee came past his opponent with relative ease winning 2&2. Alex played a good first set and a half, but gradually lost his form as his opponent improved going down 6-3 4-6 4-6. 1-1. On paper our number 1 and 2 players should be too tough for our opponents and they proved to be just that winning both in straight sets. 3-1 Kent The doubles were shared with Oliver and Keean clinching the tie for Kent. 4-2 Kent.

Saturday 30th & Sunday 1st May
Kent v Northamptonshire
1. Jack Pinnington Jones
2. Alex De Sousa
3. Omar Prince
4. Keean De Villiers
D1. Brown and De Sousa
D2. Richards and De Villiers

Due to the format of 6 counties it meant that we had to play the doubles of the next match on Saturday. Keean and Oliver continued their partnership with a very easy 0&1 win, whilst Oscar and Alex turned around a very lacklustre start with a 3-6 6-3 10-8 win. 2-0 Kent Both Omar and Keean came in for singles matches, Keean winning easily 0&2 with Omar having a great County Cup experience in a tight 3 set battle, finally going down 6-3 3-6 5-7 after having a match point and a 5-2 lead. 3-1 Kent. Alex and Jack made short work of their opponents winning in quick time. 5-1 Kent.

Monday 2nd May
Kent v Sussex
1. Jack Pinnington Jones
2. Oliver Richards
3. Oscar Brown
4. Alex De Sousa
D1. Pinnington Jones & De Sousa
D2. Richards and De Villiers

We knew that it would be a very competitive match against Sussex, but we were confident that if the boys performed as they can we would be victorious. We didn’t get off to the best of starts as both Alex and Oscar went down in straight sets as they weren’t able to rise to the challenge. 0-2 Sussex Naturally we felt very confident at 1&2, but at 2-0 down there was a lot of pressure on these boys to get us back in the tie. Both boys respond very well and despite a slip up in the 2nd set from Oliver, the tie was levelled. 2-2 So the match went down to the doubles and possibly a tie break shoot out if the doubles were shared. The boys were about to get their County Cup experience as the next 1.5hrs would be tense all the way! First sets went 6-4 with one to either team, but Jack and Alex went 5-1 up in the 2nd, whilst Keean and Oliver were 3-2 down. I felt that the sooner Jack and Alex could get the point for us it could put a lot of pressure on the Sussex #2 pairing. They finished the match off just in time 6-4 6-4 as Oliver and Keean were 4-5 down. From there the energy that the crowd and the boys themselves created was incredible as they totally turned the match around and outworked their opponents winning 4-6 7-5 10-6! 4-2 Kent

A fantastic achievement for this group of boys to come through and qualify for the national finals again after the disappointment of last year. A very good group of lads and one of the most professional, respectful and well behaved squads I have captained. Well done!
The boys were in ruthless mood from the start in this match as they won all four of the singles matches, with Oliver showing true heart coming back from 2-6 1-5 0-40 to win 2-6 7-5 6-3! 4-0 Kent. Unfortunately the doubles didn’t go our way, but it was more important to give everyone a chance to play given the unassailable lead. 4-2 Kent

Friday 13th May
Kent v Oxfordshire
1. Oliver Richards
2. Oscar Brown
3. Alex De Sousa
4. Keean De Villiers
D1. De Sousa and De Villiers
D2. Prince and Turner

Keean got Kent off to the perfect start once more winning in quick fire fashion. Alex found himself a set down, whilst Oscar and Oliver unfortunately came across to strong opponents slipping to straight sets defeats. 1-2 Lancashire. As we have come to expect from Alex he doesn’t shy away from a scrap, managing to force his match into a decider and keep Kent in touch. It turned out to be an epic final set with Alex coming through 7-1 in the tie break winning 3-6 6-2 7-6! 2-2. We went for a tactical change up in our doubles pairings which eventually paid off, despite losing the doubles at 2nd pair Oscar and Oliver putting in a memorable performance to win the number 1 doubles in 3 sets. Shoot out time for a place in the final!!! 3-3. We had a team debate about who should play and eventually the boys came up with Alex and Oliver, but they struggled to make an impact on their stronger opponents and lost. A great effort from the boys to get so close to the national final!

Saturday 14th May
Kent v Lancashire
1. Oliver Richards
2. Oscar Brown
3. Alex De Sousa
4. Keean De Villiers
D1. Richards and Brown
D2. De Sousa and De Villiers

Keean carried on his domination in the 4th singles slot with a 6-0 6-1 win. Oscar found himself in a real battle and showed great heart, but came up short in almost 3hrs going down 7-5 4-6 6-4. 1-1. Alex and Oliver lost in straight sets, so we needed Oscar to try and pull out the win, which he came so close to doing, but eventually went down 4-6 7-5 6-4. 1-3. Keean and Oliver finished off their county cup campaign undefeated as a pair, but Alex and Omar lost in the number 2 doubles position. 2-4

A fantastic achievement for this group of boys to come through and qualify for the national finals and get so close to actually reaching the final. They each battled hard and pulled together as a team. Well done!

Craig and Mark

www.kenttennis.net  Page 17
Wilderness Golf Club once again was the host venue for the 2015 Kent Annual Awards. The evening was cold and frosty outside but warm and cosy on the inside.

As the old saying goes; a great time was had by all. Congratulations goes to Mary Evans for arranging, not only all of the awards, but a terrific dinner and the evening’s entertainment too, very ably assisted by Clare Lilley. Thank you both.

I think that the best way to get a flavour of the proceeding is to see their happy faces receiving their respective awards from the President of Kent Tennis Denis Costelloe.
Disability Programme of the Year - Bromley Tennis Centre

Community Venue of the Year - Community Tennis at Ladywell Fields

Education Award - Sevenoaks School
Tony Beddoe won the Charles Bayliss Memorial Award. As the Kent recipient Tony was put forward to the Regional Awards.

County winners are then put forward to the Regional Award as well. Regional Award winners are then presented with a special trophy. Tony Beddoe was awarded the Regional Award in their category.

National Award
A national judging panel will then be held for the shortlisted regional winners which will be presented with a special trophy. Tony Beddoe was awarded the National Award as well.
Senior Team of the Year Award - Ladies 55s County Cup

Junior Team of the Year Award - Girls 14U County Cup

Junior Player of the Year Award - Anton Matusevich

Enduring Achievement Award - Tony Beddoe

In 2015, Kent Awards were held, selecting national winners from a regional judging panel, consisting of a regional TTA Head of Region. Each of the five regional winners will be invited to attend the national finals on 28th June at The Championships, to receive their trophy.

Tony Beddoe reigned supreme and won the Enduring Achievement Award. The Junior Team of the Year Award, in the Girls 14U County Cup category and the Junior Player of the Year Award, in the Boys 14U County Cup category, were also victorious and won the Junior Team of the Year Award for Girls 14U County Cup and the Junior Player of the Year Award for Anton Matusevich.
There were lots of bubbles, balloons and balls at the Bromley Tennis Centre over the weekend of 7th and 8th November. Following a week of tennis taster sessions in 6 local primary schools, more than 170 school children took up the invitation to go to the centre on Saturday 7th or Sunday 8th to have yet more fun with inflatable tennis targets and mini courts, hitting hands, and mini rallying courts. On the Sunday there was also a community festival from 12-2pm and 250 people of all ages rolled up for a variety of tennis activities led by the centre’s team of coaches and leaders with skills stations, rallying, testing speed of serve, target tennis, and cardio tennis. They were encouraged to get involved in tennis more regularly and more than 80 signed up.

At 2.00pm everyone gathered in the new bubble over the four outdoor courts for its official opening. Visitors from the LTA, Tennis Foundation, Kent Clubs, Kent Council and Board of Management were treated to a showcase of activity by tennis tots and mini players. This was followed by some official thank you’s from Steve Matthews of Virtus Leisure who operates the centre, and a ribbon cutting by Cathie Sabin, the President of the Lawn Tennis Association. And finally a fun tiebreak shoot out competition saw 8 teams battle it out for a trophy and prizes, won by Juni’s Baboonies.

The bubble has been funded by the Tennis Foundation whose support for the centre is much appreciated by everyone at the centre, by the Newstead Wood School and by the Kent LTA. Bromley is considered by the LTA to be one of the best centres of its kind in the country. It is the only one of the 52 community indoor centres in the country to be accredited for delivering community tennis, disability tennis, high performance and coach education. It’s tennis for everyone at Bromley!
It’s been a full winter of activity at the Bromley Tennis Centre. The addition of the seasonal bubble resulted in more winter play than ever before, new players finding the fun of tennis and the winter hibernators coming out to play. The introduction of one day tournaments for adults and seniors were a great addition to the programme. There were four types of events – adult intermediate mixed, adult advanced mixed, men’s doubles and seniors mixed. Altogether in 12 events, 107 players enjoyed meeting new players, battling against familiar faces and walking away with lovely Elemis prizes. Many thanks to Elemis for their kind sponsorship and we look forward to next winter’s events.

The additional facilities, plus the Tennis Roadshow promotion in November, resulted in a substantial increase in the coaching programme across all age groups but especially in the younger children and teenagers. The mini and tots programme alone has more than 640 players enjoying weekly sessions.

Juniors of all ages are enjoying competitions. The mini red series throughout the winter attracted 280 entries in 8 events. The December winner was Josh White and the March winner was Sam Taylor. The Grade 3 events in October and February had events for 8&U up to 18&U with 300 and 314 players respectively and the Christmas mini tournament had 128 entries. Winners were from all over.

BTC players out and about have had a fair degree of success in addition to the huge successes of Anton Matusevich, Nell Miller and Emma Raducanu reported elsewhere in this KLT. Eloise Newberry won her first 9&U South East event at Horsham LTC to add to her win at BTC in the Grade 3 8&U. Sam Taylor added to his 8&U successes including runner up at the Kent 8&U Boys Championships in March and the BTC Easter tournament. Nikita Philips was runner-up in the BTC red series and won the 8&U Kent Girl’s Championship. Sofia Johnson won the Grade 4 16&U at Tunbridge Wells, the Grade 2 12&U at Westside and the Grade 2 12&U in Nottingham. Ethan O’Reilly won an 18&U Grade 3 in Buckinghamshire and Natasha Munday met up with Joanna Konta at the NTC after her consolation draw win in the 18&U Nike Tour Finals.

Back at the centre, Coach Education continues to train coaches in qualification and development courses. In January & February Mark Tennant from Inspire2Coach delivered four well attended courses and Dan Bloxham came in for a second time in April to deliver his ideas for schools coaching.

There are some great courses coming up for ideas for holiday camps and using sports psychology in lessons for all ages. More details can be found on www.bromleytenniscentre.co.uk.

92 coaches came to the centre on 8 March when we hosted the Davis Cup Legacy training for the ‘Tennis for Kids’ scheme. Annabel Croft, Greg Rusedski, Anne Keothavong, plus Sam Richardson and Merlin Van de Braam from the LTA, led the action with much fun, hilarity and great on court ideas. Coaches were inspired to go back to their clubs and set up their summer courses.

Meanwhile at the centre we are busy getting organised for a visit of the Davis Cup itself on 8th June. We will report on that in the next KLT.

So now the summer is here, the bubble is down and I as write this the snow is falling! That’s British Tennis for you.

Sandi Procter

www.kenttennis.net
Disability Tennis in Kent continues to grow, with an increase in weekly and monthly participation and more sessions being delivered around the county for various impairment groups.

2016 is an Olympic and Paralympic year and our aim is to create a database of wheelchair tennis players, so anyone who has people playing at their club or know of anyone who is interested in playing please let me know at:

tom.defrates@bromleytenniscentre.co.uk

A major high has been the introduction of a Junior Wheelchair Tennis session by Chris Howard at South East London Tennis at Ladywell Sports Centre. His numbers are increasing all the time and he has added sessions linking with the NHS for people with physical disabilities. Wheelchair tennis competitions are increasing with a planned series of recreational competitions, one each at Bromley Tennis Centre, Sutton Tennis Academy, Lee Valley Tennis Centre, Westway Sports Centre and Islington Tennis Centre. The first one was on 26 March at Bromley, the next is on 12 June at Westway and more dates to finalise.

Our links with Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools are stronger than ever and the Bromley Tennis Centre is running its third year of sessions in 4 schools in the summer term culminating in the SEN schools festival in June. It’s hoped to have over 80 children receiving coaching and competing at the festival. In conjunction with the Tennis Foundation we are in the process of Special Olympics accreditation for Learning Disability activity. Participation data will be submitted to the Special Olympics organisation in June and then after this, registered players will have the opportunity to compete regionally, nationally and even internationally.

In January/February Bromley coaches delivered 5 weeks of coaching in local SEN schools culminating in an MLD (Mild learning difficulties) team playing in the London Youth Games at Westway. Brilliantly they came 3rd! (see team photo)

We are continuing to link with partners such as Charlton Athletic Community Trust mental health programme providing tennis activities for people with various mental health issues at Bromley Tennis Centre. Through links with the South London Special League, local coaches organise inclusive activities in schools and at the Waterfront centre in Greenwich.

Tom Defrates
As I said in this report last year, Easter weather can be quite fraught when trying to organise a week long tennis tournament, and this year it did not disappoint. A storm with exceptionally high winds swept across southern England making it impossible to start the tournament on time on Easter Monday. With almost 80 matches to be played each day, any delays causes a headache for the referee. Fortunately the weather did improve over the course of the week, and by Saturday at the end of that week, the courts were bathed in spring like sunshine for the finals.

The tournament this year (and our August event) are being sponsored by Eastbourne College and we gratefully thank them for their support. Whilst the tournament is predominately catering for junior players, a few years ago the LTA introduced categories for adult players. The first of these to be played on Finals Day was the Men’s Open Singles. This was a very hard fought and exciting match between the 2014 and 2015 champion Jack Beuttill Triggs (Hove) and Tom Jarvis (Parklangley). The first set lasted almost an hour with a verdict that could have gone in either direction it was so close. It was however Tom who took it at 7-5 and the second set 6-2. Jack was again a runner up in the Boys 18 Doubles partnering Cameron Waller losing out to Alex Hyman and Oliver Richards, a superb win for these lads taking the match in the third set tie break.

Alex in fact had a very good day going on to win the Boys 16 event, and the Men’s Consolation Singles. The Ladies singles, won by 19 year old Sarah Wray who battled against 15 year old Monet Baptiste by winning 6-4 6-1.

In the Boys 18 competition Tonbridge player Martin Thomas comprehensively beat Jake Russell 6-1 6-2 and in the Girls 18 competition, Anna Kilby beat local player (Sevenoaks) Catherine Hogh, 6-3 6-2. Catherine however didn’t go home empty handed as she and her partner Mathilde Sreeves, beat Lucy Spice and Abby Taylor in a third set tie break. Mathilde went on to have a very good day winning consolation prizes in both the Ladies Singles and the Girls 18 singles competition.

One of the last prizes to be awarded on the day was the ‘Fairplay’ award. This is given to the boy and girl in the Orange group (9 years old) whom the Club officials feel have displayed a good behaviour and fairness throughout the competition. The award this year was won by Luca Tunon and Shakira Bettencourt. The Fairplay Award was sponsored by Eastbourne College and presented by Club coach Charlie Gibson.

The Club now starts on its own Club Championships running through the summer months with Finals Day in July. This is a very popular event with quite often a full 64 players in the Men’s Singles and promotes some excellent tennis. Once this event is over the Club hosts its two major open tournaments in August, a Veterans event followed by another junior open tournament - another busy year then!

Brian Goldsmith
To play Tennis for your County is an honour, or dare I say a privilege. Ideally, I would love to have had a full and complete record of all the Ladies who treaded the courts in wind, rain, sleet and snow in the cause of Kent tennis. Fortunately, I managed to find four out of the six hand written ledgers giving details of the ladies who played and the number of times they played in these matches.

Regrettably the ledgers covering the years 1899 to 1920 and the period 1930 to 1948 could not be located and all I could obtain was simply the names of those who played, but not the number of appearances made. The first Ladies Inter County championships started in 1899 and three years later in 1902 our Kent Ladies became champions. The victorious team was Miss Ellen Tootell the captain from 1899 to 1910, with her team of Miss Connie Wilson (later Mrs Luard), Miss Harriet Hughes-Daeth, Miss Mildred Coles (later Mrs Davis) and the Pillans sisters Helen and Katie. A tennis magazine of that time said “The members of the Kent team travelled from such distant places as Maidstone, Canterbury and Sevenoaks and journeys have been cheerfully been made to London and Edgbaston simply in the interest of pure sport”. Let mere man kindly note “Albert Prebble of the Sydenham club did take note and he took over as Captain from 1911 to 1914, the only time that a man has captained a Kent Ladies team. Albert was replaced in 1919 when Mrs Geraldine Beamish took over the captains role.

Just for the record I have calculated the players appearances on every occasion they played against another county. Using the current summer county week as an example where Kent play five matches, five appearances recorded for any player playing on all five days. I hope that the names and appearances will bring back some happy memories for readers. Not only to those who played and are still with us, to their brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, mums dads and grans, grandads and grandchildren. Finally, thank you to all you ladies of Kent for giving your all; your blood, your sweat and your tears (Ladies perspire, they do not sweat - Editor). Thanks for the memories.

1902 to 1920 (NO LEDGER AVAILABLE)
The following players represented Kent during these years. How many times they played I am unable to say: Orea Beatty, Mrs Geraldine (Ramsay)Beamish, Mrs Eleanor (Sharp) Browning, Mrs Georgina (Wilson) Baylay, Mrs Collier, Miss J Coles, Mrs Mildred (Coles ) Davis, Harriet Hughes Daeth, Mrs Ada (Evans) Day, Miss E and Miss M Dillon, Gladys Eastlake-Smith, Mrs Aurea (Farrington) Edginton, Irene Huleatt, Mrs P Hausburg, Maud Hurlbatt, Mrs Hunt, Constance Johnstone, Mrs Amy (Wilson) Kirby, Mrs Connie (Wilson) Luard, Miss Olive Manser, Miss B Mason, Helen and Kate Pillans, Miss Paine, Mrs Mary (Marsh) Rudkin, Mrs Florence Speck, Ellen Tootell, Mrs Wilcox. Must refer to Connie Wilsons successes which include Wimbledon Mixed Doubles champion in 1905 and Ladies Doubles champion in 1907. Likewise, Geraldine Beamish who won the French ladies doubles in 1923 and a doubles silver at the 1920 Olympics. And Gladys Eastlake-Smith who won the Olympic Singles Gold in 1908. During these decades our ladies wore restrictive attire of ankle length dresses with long sleeves high necks and shoes with a heel. In 1922, Suzanne Lenglen shocked Wimbledon when she turned up wearing a short knee length skirt.

BOOK 1 - COVERS THE PERIOD 1921 TO 1929
This ledger reports the results and names of Kent players who played at county week as well as those who played friendly matches, whether representing Kent or competing in the handful of Kent A games. Home matches during these years were played at Catford Wanderers, Blackheath, Beckenham or Lamorbey Park Sidcup. Miss Irene Maltby who played 42 matches during this decade was a member of the Private Banks Club. Mrs Mabel Dermer who was match secretary in 1926, lived at 13 Wickham Way,
Beckenham and played for the Beckenham club. The longest match of the twenties took place at Felixstowe on Thursday July 26th 1928 when Kents Miss Evelyn-Jones partnering Miss Gladys Thompson lost to Lincolnshires Miss Haxley and Miss Anningson 3-6, 17-15, 10-12, a total of 63 games.

Miss J Aste 3, Miss K Austen 4, Mrs Marjorie (East) Barrett 4, Miss A Beare 3, Miss E A Beecroft 11, Miss Bertha Boas 7, Miss Bobby 1, Miss Beatrice Brown (Lady Collett) 22, Miss Bosworth 1, Miss Thelma Cazalet 5, Miss Florence Clark 3 and later as Mrs WG Speck 7, Miss Kathleen Clay 11 Miss Vera Clay 19 and later as Mrs Ford–Hutchinson 19, Mrs Davis 8, Mrs Mabel (Reid) Dermer 39, Miss A Dillon 1, Miss P Dorman 1, Miss D Faber 4, Miss K Forbes 1, Miss M Fraser 14, Miss B Frye 1, Miss Geddes 2, Mrs Nora Hume–Williams 6, Miss J Jackson 2, Miss Helen Evelyn—Jones 20, Miss Betty Kendle 4, Miss Hallard 1, Miss Happell 3, Miss Hermant 1, Mrs G P Hurst 1, Miss E Hutchinson 7, Mrs Maclilwaine 12, Miss Irene Maltby 42, Miss Olive Manser 13, Mrs R Marchant 1, Miss Kathleen Marriage 3, Miss B Mayston, Miss Eva Mogg 3, Miss Palk 8, Miss K Paterson 4, Miss Patisson 14, Mrs Phylis Philcox 9, Mrs Ritherdon 2, Miss M Scott 11, Miss CK Scott 4, Mrs S H Stedman 2, Miss Steed 5, Miss Gladys Thompson and as Mrs HA Lewis 14, Miss E Townsend 1, Miss J Watson 1, Miss O L Webb 13, Miss B M (Wilson) Torrance 20, There were also the Steer-Watkins sisters with Agnes later becoming Mrs Moorshead. Both played for Kent, one on four occasions and the other played once.

1939 TO 1949
NO LEDGER AVAILABLE.
There were no matches played between 1939 and 1946 and play resumed in 1947. The following players represented our county during this short period. Miss Enid Andrews, Betty Couper, Mrs Denise (Collier) French, Penelope Durlac, Miss Sheila Grubb, Betty Kendle, Sheila Kenyon, Mrs Lister, Madeline Moss, Mrs Sylvia Pronger, Miss Jean Quertier, Miss Patsy Rodgers, Miss Steele, Miss Enid Sutto.

1930 TO 1938
NO LEDGER AVAILABLE
No ledger available to cover fully the years 1930 to 1938. We do have a record of the players who played during this period but unable to say how many appearances they made. So the following flew the flag for Kent in the thirties. Mrs Elizabeth (Lewis) Allen, Miss Bertha Boas, Miss Thelma Cazelet who was a member of Parliament, Miss Sheila Chuter, Mrs Betty (Soames) Couper, Mrs Winifred (Murphy) Dewar, Mrs Edgenton-Moss, Miss N Edes, Miss Betty Frye, Miss M Fraser, Mrs I Gillespie, Miss Hume–Williams, Joan and Kathleen Hart-Fox, Betty Kendle, Mrs Leigh, Miss B Lewis, Mrs Gladys (Thompson) Lewis, Mrs P (Mitchell) Crowe, Mrs Madeline (Pearson) Moss, Miss Irene Maltby, Miss Eva Mogg, Mrs Moorshead, Miss Sonia Mavrogordato, Miss Joan Oswald, Mrs Sylvia (Anderson) Pronger, Mrs S (Stoney) Lister, Mrs D (Soames) Symons, Miss GM Smith, Mrs Mabel Stebbing, Miss Steer-Watkins, Miss O Webb, Miss Penelope Weekes (Mrs Durlac), Mrs Mabel Stebbing. Thelma Cazelet was an MP for Islington East constituency from 1931 to 1945. Her brother Peter trained the Queen mothers horse Devon Loch who fell, when in the lead fifty metres from the winning post in the 1956 Grand National.

Changing doubles partner did Matt no harm in October 2015 except he met his previous partner (Carlos Gomez-Herrera) in the final of the Madrid 10K. Mat was partnered with Juan Lizariturry, together they had beaten the 2nd seeds in the first round and fought a tough final to find themselves in a tie break. The pair were victorious at 10-3 in the 3rd set tie break.

Pictured above left to right are runners up Arenas Gualda and Carlos Gomez-Herrera, winners Matt Short and Juan Lizariturry.
Kent County Junior Finals

The Kent County Junior Winter league finals were held at King's Rochester Sports Ground on the 20th March 2016 in glorious sunshine. The league organised by Harriet Izzard and supported by Jim Barton had 254 teams entered from throughout the County of Kent and played through the winter season across the County’s venues before culminating in a Finals day. The players and coaches enjoyed the ‘Player plus Format’ adopting the Davis Cup style that saw coaches on court during matches. Kent youngsters made up part of the ‘officiating’ team and the running of the event with Referee Jim Barton over seeing.

Kent LTA’s Vice President Vanessa Webb was in attendance all day and presented the trophies to the winners and runners up. A great day of tennis was enjoyed by all and the many spectators were treated to some high quality tennis, played in a good spirit throughout.

12U Girls winners West Heath beating Tunbridge Wells LTC
14U Girls winners Wye beating West Heath
16U Girls winners beating Horsmonden
18U Girls, finals still to be played
10U Boys winners Canterbury beating West Heath A
12U Boys winners Horsmonden beating Deal
14U Boys winners Graveshame beating Shooters Hill
16U Boys Winners Meopham beating Knockholt
18U Boys winners Gravesham beating Beckenham

Deal Host The HSBC Road to Wimbledon Qualifying Event.

The Deal Indoor Tennis Centre was invited to stage a qualifying round for the prestigious HSBC Road to Wimbledon National 14 & under Challenge 2016. The Boys competed in the one day event for a chance to go through to the next stage, the County Finals.

There was some superb tennis on show at the Centre as all the boys produced some of their best tennis and the many spectators were thrilled by some impressive displays. Many of the matches featured lengthy rallies and were closely contested. The boys were put into three round robin boxes three winners and a lucky second placed player moving into the semi-finals.

Deal’s defending champion from last year Daniel Hodgson was up against Paris Vining from Kings Recreation Centre, Canterbury. The boys were involved in some epic rallies that kept their parents on the edge of their seats, Paris came through the opening set 4-2. With the first set tucked firmly under his belt his confidence soared and he raced away with the second set without the loss of a game.

The other Semi was against Deal’s John Dowle and Arran Gallagher and turned out to be the match of the day. A high quality match that saw the initiative change hands as often as the players changed ends. Gallagher took the first set 4-2. A very closely contested second set followed that ended up on a tie break that eventually went in Dowles favour as he levelled the score to one apiece. Gallagher had to take an injury time out at the end of a breaker with a foot injury and it was beginning to look as though the match was going to finish there but Gallagher refused to give in and went back on court to play a match tie-break. Another hard fought tie-break that saw both players forced to dig deep but it was Dowle who managed to hold his nerve in increasing tension and took the breaker 10-7 and a place in the Final. Dowle remained in sharp form in the Final against Vining and his sheer determination carried him through to a 4-1,4-2 victory and a place in the County Finals to be held at the Bromley Tennis Centre in July.
The Deal Indoor Tennis Centre notched up another award as they became the first Tennis Club in the East Kent Area to be awarded the Tennis Mark+ Accreditation. The Centre’s Tennis Coordinator Vanessa Webb has been working on the Accreditation for the past six months and the hard work has paid dividends after they received the lawn Tennis Association’s Congratulations on behalf of British Tennis.

The Tennis Mark Accreditation has taken over from the former Club Mark Accreditation which the Centre received in 2012 in their first year of operation. It is now on a two tier level with Tennis Mark being a single, national standard that gives structure and direction to every type of sports venue and is endorsed by all main sporting, youth and education agencies involved in the delivery of sporting opportunity for young people.

The Deal Indoor Tennis Centre have gone one better as they decided they wanted the top award for Deal and felt with all the programmes that they already have in place at the Centre that included a year round Junior and Adult Coaching Programme as well as a Disability programme and Wheelchair Tennis and a hugely successful all year round Competition Programme that not only offers Club Match Plays but LTA County and Regional Tour Events Grade 5, 4 and 3 for eight and Under-18 & Under knew they had a good chance of achieving this. The tennis team led by Vanessa already reached the specific criteria relating to Management and with Chris Hollands (LTA Licensed Level 4 Senior Club Coach) and Toby Churchill (LTA Licensed Level 3 coach and currently doing his Level 4 Performance Tennis Coach Qualification) the Tennis Coaching programme has gone from strength to strength. Vanessa finished off the last requirements when she went on a ‘Safeguarding and Protection in Tennis for Children, Young People and Adults’ course and work shop making her the Centre’s Welfare Officer.

On the 16th August the Centre received notification that Deal had been upgraded and passed the Tennis Mark+Accreditation which makes them one of the elite Clubs in the Country. In fact only the third club to achieve this in the South East. Tennis Mark plus is a mark of high quality sports venues for Juniors and Adults. A stamp of approval to which all sports venues aspire. It represents Safety, Fair and focussed support for all in providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment combined with a high quality, all year round programme of activity.

The Lawn Tennis Association and Sport England both promote this Accreditation.

Vanessa has received congratulations from British Tennis and a certificate that will be proudly displayed at the Tennis Centre. An overjoyed Vanessa added after the presentation that “The Deal team are demonstrating that they are delivering a comprehensive programme for all ages and abilities as well as being forward thinking. This last year has been an incredible year we were awarded the prestigious ‘Club of the Year Award’ at the Kent LTA Awards evening in February. In March they had already upgraded from their Club Mark Accreditation to the new Tennis Mark Accreditation and had a great celebratory evening when the team were invited to the Kent LTA 125th Anniversary Gala Ball held at Wimbledon in May. Now we have upgraded to Tennis Mark +. 2014/15 has been a great year!”

A representative from the LTA said “This is a centre that will no doubt be a huge asset to British Tennis for many years to come”
Brigadoon Tennis Club had a night to remember. The tennis, the stars, the merriment and the mists rolling in from the hills as the midnight hour approached.

So much for our one day tournament as I would now like to give you a brief run down on some of the players at our club. This is mainly to ask you kind readers if such characters exist at your club, or are we a refuge place for some odd characters. If, you have players at your club like those listed below, please let me know as we celebrate another great 100 years of Tennis this October. Now if you are wondering what became of Tommy Albright and Fiona Campbell, well Tommy got lost in the mists which are quite heavy up these parts and had to return to America. But like all young laddies in love, he was hell bent in finding bonnie Jean again and guess what, he came back searching for Jean and without a map or a satnav to find Brigadoon tennis club. But like all good Hollywood romances, he found her, they wed and they lived happily ever after. So for the present let me introduce you to some of our members:

**MR A** The salt of the earth and always at the club to do any jobs. It’s his life love and down the years - you name it he has done it. What will we do when he retires for good?

**MR B** Our Club Captain, although rarely seen, loves the attention on Finals Day which he always wins and relates to all who will listen on how many titles he has won.

**MR C** Best mates of MR A and usually wins the doubles club title with his friend. Regularly reminds us that he once beat Andy Murray when Andy was an eight year old.

**MR D** A stickler for players wearing all white while yearning for the old days. Never stays for food after matches and carries a long list of excuses for his hasty departure, miserable old sod.

**MR E** Simply cannot stand juniors where their playful cheerful banter upsets him and his three old cronies playing their Sunday morning four. Outdated old fool and best ignored.

**Miss F** Flutters her eyelashes and all the wide eyed males. Even silly old 70 year men rush to partner her. Well tanned with the latest style, she relishes the attention from all the males.

**Miss G** Captain of ladies and mixed teams who picks all her friends for all the matches. Never has plans now to invite some more special olds are enthralled.

**Miss H** Rules the club kitchen with a rod of iron. Woe betide anyone who misplaces cups or cutlery or leaves tea bags in the sink.

**Mr I** The dread of the AGM. Has lots of lists of excuses for his hasty departure, miserable old sod.

**Mr J** A scruffy dresser on court and enjoys the remarks he receives on his baggy tracksuit and football t-shirts. Good first serve though - that’s when it goes in.

**Mr K** Know as Old Spice or Mr Brut but not for reasons you have guessed. Take two steps backwards when you shake his hands after the match.

**Mr L** Our esteemed Treasurer with a detailed AGM record of our finances. He may be 87 years old but he has got a gifted brain that has outlived the modern spreadsheets.

**Ms M** Much travelled and has attended the French, Australian and US Championships. Our men find her charming and witty. Our women find her loud, dull and braggart.

**Mr N** Boring old toad who boasts continually about his grandson the county 14 champion who is destined for an USA scholarship. Certain to make it or so he assures us.

**MRS O** Recalls the old days of Club Raffles, Bingo, Car Drives and Jumble Sales. Oh and yes, she has a few saucy stories of illicit club romances behind the hedge near court number 5.

**MR P** The club comedian. Props up the bar with hilarious stories of past players and past matches - you know, like 5-1 up and his partner may well feel over his tennis bag at 40-15.

**MR Q** He talks non stop during matches and if that was enough his line calls are diabolical. A suitable case for Specsavers.

**MR R** Nobody wants to partner him as he continually moans if his partner misses a shot. He infuriates by giving coaching lessons to his partners as well - ie, up at the net - stand there, use the lob etc.

**MRS S** Our constant late payer be it membership fees or match fees. Boasts of a good city job, fantastic holidays abroad but ask him for money and it’s “see you next week”

**Mr T** Fed up with our club and everyone about his tennis bag at 40-15. Wishes he would go to much better club up the road, but never does so. Wish he would though.

**MR U** Appears at the AGM with a list of what needs to be done at the club. Never seen though at working parties or volunteering to take on a committee role.

**MR V** Injury man. Has one injury after another he says and will not turn out if there is the smallest drop of rain on the courts. Carries a bag filled with tablets, creams, bandages and energy drinks.

**Mr W** Turns up for social play where he ducks and dives to try and arrange his own little doubles pairs. Forgets that he too was once a beginner and that better players partnered him to improve his tennis.

**Mr X** Friendly, chatty guy off court but on court as miserable as hell. Ok when winning, but on losing, he throws his racket, swears and gives dubious line calls.

**Mr Y** Lerner and Mr Loewe. Not sure if these two fellows who prop up the bar ever played tennis, but to their credit they were responsible for getting Gene Kelly, Cyd Charisse and Van Johnson to turn up at out club. They have plans now to invite some more special visitors for our next special day including Colonel Pickering, Henry Higgins and a Londoner named Alf Dolittle and his daughter Eliza. Well anything can happen at our little cosy club. As for myself, I’ve grown accustomed to this place, it’s second nature to me now.
Nell Miller of Bromley Tennis Centre and Bromley Lawn TC has had a great winter season. She was selected to represent GB at the Winter Cup in Holland in February, then reached an ITF international event final in Austria. Then followed an amazing 18 match winning streak in which she won three ITF events, two in Sweden and one in Nottingham. She is now ranked 248 in 18&U ITF rankings with two more years in the junior age group.

Anton Matusevich (in the white shirt) of Bromley Tennis Centre and West Heath won the LTA/AEGON Junior Player of the Month for December after performing superbly to reach the final of the prestigious Orange Bowl in Florida. Playing in the 14&U category, Anton came through the huge 256 draw reaching the final and hoping to lift the trophy which Andy Murray won at 12&U in 1999. Sadly it was not to be and he lost to the No 1 one seed Argentinian Thiago Tirante 2-6, 2-6. Since then Anton has reached his first ITF final 18&U and three quarter finals and is now ranked 448 in ITF 18&U rankings and is on track for receiving a Wimbledon wild card this year. All the more remarkable is that he’s only 14 years old.

Emma Raducanu (in the light green shirt) won the LTA/Aegon Junior Player of the Month for November 2015 after winning back to back international singles titles. Emma, 13, first lifted the singles and doubles at the 14&U Nike Junior International in Roehampton without dropping a single set, racing past Andre Lukosiute 6-3, 6-0 in the singles. The youngster from Bromley Tennis Centre then became the youngest ever winner of an 18&U ITF event at the Nike Junior International in Liverpool. Despite being an unseeded wildcard, Emma defeated No.1 seed Lauryn John-Baptiste 6-1, 6-4 in the final.

The Kent County Closed 8U event took place on 12th and 13th March 2016:
Girls Winner: Nikita Phillips
Boys Winner: Ben Gusic-Wan
The Meaning of Invicta

I was wearing my Kent tracksuit top at the Bournemouth championships, in one of the now rapidly mounting games in which I have been beaten. My nephew was watching. Having been to one of the few schools which still teach Latin, he asked how I could display the word "INVICTA" when I had been beaten.

My reply was that although I had lost that match I would still strive to improve on the key aspects of the game, which I consider are; shots, movement, tactics, partner communication and respect for opponents.

My nephew is a keen student of history and I explained that it was not unlike the comment of General Douglas Macarthur on his retreat from the Phillipines in 1942 during the second world war. Abandoning his island fortress of Corrigidor, he climbed aboard a gunship under cover of darkness and ran through the Japanese blockade. He then contacted the Australian press in Adelaide with his famous words "I SHALL RETURN".

Most readers will know that Down House in the village of Downe, was the home of Charles Darwin and his family. Visitors to the house, which is beautifully preserved by English Heritage, may notice some old tennis rackets by the rear door leading out onto the garden, and think little of them. However, these are a clue to one aspect of domestic life at Down House, which is reinforced by the discovery at the far end of the grounds, of a concrete tennis court. Obviously there was a side of Charles Darwin which extended beyond ground breaking scientific discovery and study.

I first noticed the court many years ago but gave it little thought, except as a curiosity. Then when I became more interested in the history of tennis, I remembered the court and realized that it is probably a unique survivor from the birth of the modern game of lawn tennis, because it is hour glass-shaped, not rectangular. Tennis buffs will know that Major Walter Wingfield invented a game which he marketed in 1874 under the less than catchy name of Sphairistike, with the reluctant sub-title of Lawn Tennis. He sold kits containing all the necessary equipment and the Rules, in boxes for £6, and these were sent all over the world. It is difficult for us perhaps, to understand that at that time there was very little sporting activity in which people could engage, and even less for women, except croquet and archery. This new sport could easily be played on the lawns large houses, was equally suitable for ladies and mixed participation, and was more energetic and skilful than croquet, which it quickly supplanted in the popularity stakes.

The Sphairistike court was shaped like an hourglass, being 39 feet along the baseline and 30 feet at the net and 84 feet in length. The net was just over 4 feet high, with wing-like extensions at the poles parallel to the tramlines. This shape was peculiar, and was probably adopted by Major Wingfield to distinguish his invention, which he wanted to patent, from other forms of the game which were emerging at that time. The game, in its various forms, proved more popular than Wingfield could ever have imagined, and by 1880 clubs were being established all over this country and elsewhere in the world. By 1877 the All England Croquet Club had adopted the game on some of its croquet courts, and included “Lawn Tennis” in its name. However, the Club did not think much of Major Wingfield’s version, and established their own Rules, which included a rectangular court lay out, to the dimensions we still use today. This is why the court at Down House is something of a mystery.
Darwin bought extra land from a neighbour in 1880, which allowed the construction of the court in 1881. Buying the extra land and laying out a concrete court was obviously an expensive project, and somewhat unusual. Although Major Wingfield said the game could be played anywhere, even on ice with skates, the essential point of the game as it emerged at this time was that it was a game to be played on grass, hence the name “Lawn Tennis”. It would be an understatement to say that Darwin was an innovative and courageous forward thinker. So why would such a man go to the expense of building a tennis court to dimensions that were, by 1881, already out of date? We can never know for certain, but I think the answer is fairly prosaic. There is in the main house a pretty water colour which is dated 1880 and which shows the lawns of the house with a tennis court and equipment laid out. Although not totally clear, it looks like a Sphairistike hourglass court and nets with posts. It seems most likely that when the concrete court was constructed the next year, the Darwins simply used the same shape as they were used to, and the same nets, posts and equipment, seeing no reason to change. Re-use rather than discard was a characteristic of the Darwins. The dimensions of the hard court are not the same as Major Wingfield’s The hour glass shape is nothing like as pronounced. However, Major Wingfield’s dimensions were not prescribed by his Rules; he was at pains to say the dimensions were variable. It seems the Darwins decided what they wanted and what they liked, and laid out their court accordingly. Darwin himself was not in good health at the time and it is likely that his wife Emma was responsible for the construction. There was no governing national body for the game at that time, and the edict of the All England Club may have had little impact upon the Darwins, living well away from London, even if they knew of it. They would have decided to go with what suited them best.

From a modern viewpoint it is odd that the concrete court comprises only the playing surface. There is no over run at the back or sides. This means that a player would be in some danger if he or she ran from concrete to grass at speed. However, this probably is an indication that the game was rather more sedate than today, and of course this must have been one of the very first hard courts ever laid, and this aspect is unlikely to have occurred to the Darwins. It is sad to note that Darwin died very shortly after the court was constructed. He had been a loving father, and the loss to the family was immense.

Whatever the real background, the fact is that, so far as is known, there is no other surviving example of a hard tennis court from this era, anywhere in the world. Down House is well worth a visit to see the house itself and the contents used by the great scientist, and to follow the emergence of his revolutionary theory. However, for me, the insight into his domestic life, directly linked as it is with the game we play today, is a real and unexpected pleasure, and an added bonus.

*Geoff Stephenson*
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The first record of Herne Bay Tennis Club was of a tournament played in 1891 in the grounds of the then Parsonage Farm, off Canterbury Road. The Club’s first recorded inter-club match took place there against Bolton Fields on June 27th 1898. The farm later became the home of a number of schools and, finally, of a Christian Fellowship Conference Centre, until it closed down in 2006 and the site has now become derelict.

From the farm, the Club eventually expanded on to the town’s centre in Victoria Park. Judging by the programme of a large and very impressive number of entries into an open tournament subsidized by “Slazenger”, held there just three days before the UK entered the Great War in 1914, there must have been at least ten grass courts available to make it possible. We should also assume that amateur open tennis tournaments in Herne Bay may well have been a regular feature, such as those still held annually in events run by the LTA at Eastbourne and Frinton. Until further research, nobody knows more.

However, at a time at present unknown, Victoria Park itself was closed down and turned into a housing estate, thus forcing the Tennis Club to find other premises. With the opening in 1930 of a new “Memorial Park” further west in Herne Bay to celebrate victory in the Great War, the Herne Bay Tennis Club then happily moved to the Park’s ten newly laid hard courts, which crucially lacked an appropriate pavilion.

There the Club remained until 1975, when the Tennis Club combined with the Herne Bay Hockey club in a joint development of the Council’s Kent Close site, off Beacon Road, where the Tennis Club remains to this day. It should be noted that 1975 was the year when the Club’s leading player and Men’s Captain, Gary Sims, decided that with new courts, a new two storey pavilion and, most importantly of all, a sufficiently high standard of players, the Club should enter into the Kent Leagues for the first time.

Originally, the Herne Bay Hockey Club played on a new astro turf pitch laid over the former grass court pitch at Kent Close, and the Tennis Club on three new clay courts next to it. However, the clay courts were to prove such high maintenance, thanks not a little to nailed down court lines and overhanging fir trees which shed their cones over the courts, that it was later decided to use six temporary courts erected on the astro turf hockey pitch in the summer, and in the winter play matches on courts hired in Whitstable, with clubs session held back at the Memorial Park in Herne Bay.

That arrangement continued until 2003 when, with help from the Kent LTA, four absorbent acrylic courts replaced the three unused former clay courts, and remain in all year round use to this day. Sadly, the neighbouring hockey pitch deteriorated to the extent that it has been declared unplayable for official matches, and estimates for replacement amount to around an unobtainable half a million pounds. The Hockey Club now hire a pitch at the Herne Bay High School, but still return to the impressive jointly owned pavilion for changing, meals and entertainment.

Lionel Hoskins
If Stephen Woodley ever decides to write his autobiography, perhaps he should call it “Have racket—will travel”. Tennis wise he has done it all. Born in Plymouth, moving to Oxford and making forty appearances at County Week for his adopted county. Next up, comes Eltham College where he is heavily involved in their schools tennis programme. Moving forward we find him chairman of Canterbury tennis club for thirteen years. However his tennis racket continues to work overtime. He captains the Kent team and goes on to make 67 appearances as well. He plays against GB Davis players Roger Taylor and Bobby Wilson along the way. Next comes the Veterans scene where to date he has made 104 appearances for Kent and a call up to play for his country. And so the story continues for as we go to print we learn that he will captain the Kent 75 team this summer. And I almost forgot, Stephens massive contribution to the editorial team of the 2015 Kent Tennis 125th Anniversary edition. What a great tennis story and time for a KLT interview.

Stephen Woodley came to Kent, played for Kent, edited the 2015 Handbook, and took 65 years to make the GB team.

I was born in my mother’s city, Plymouth, where my father was teaching, and remain a long-distance supporter of Plymouth Argyle. My father was a strong all-round sportsman (much more so than me) and had been Victor Ludorum at Abingdon School. Whilst in teacher training he hurdles against the great Lord Burghley; in his first teaching post he played football for Malvern Town and won his colours for Worcs; in the 1950s he refereed Oxfordshire Senior League matches. (Ex-Liverpool player Mark Wright was a nephew).

When did the family move back to the Abingdon area?
In 1948 my father was appointed to run the English Department at Culham Teachers' Training College, which in the post-War years was run just like a boys' public school: games fixtures on Saturdays and compulsory chapel on Sundays. For my mother leaving Plymouth was a wrench; for my father it brought him back close to where he was born, Clifton Hampden. It is a classic - Thames Valley village: the church looking down on the red-brick bridge over the river, wild flowers everywhere. It lives in my mind. I spent a summer (age 10 or 11) scoring for the village team: local greens and recs, big hitters and fast bowlers who still talked like Shakespeare's rustics (for TV was not widespread). Or so it seems.

And a start to tennis?
Yes, at about the same time, with patient student teachers. But it was a rural area, and people who have never lived away from the suburbs have little idea of how hard it is to get good tennis far from population centres. So although I won a couple of junior tournaments in Oxford my main summer game was cricket. I’m not ungrateful for this: captaining a cricket team is one of the best tactical and diplomatic trainings one can get in sport. My peak was a summer opening the batting for Oxfordshire Under 19s, but the next summer (1957) I played my first County Week (Oxon, Group 5) and never went back to cricket. My 1st XI master was disgusted: “a cissy sport, and not a team game either” was a widely-expressed view in the 1950s.

And in the winter?
Oddly, though competitive tennis was hard to come by where we lived the standard of badminton was very high, thanks to the two excellent sprung courts in the Old Gaol. The temperature was all of that, so one learned to exercise hard at singles! This took me to games with the Oon brothers when I went up to Cambridge: impossible to get a point off either of them! In vacations I’d come home and practise with Judy Hashman, then the greatest-ever woman badminton player. (She had a slight edge on me). When I came up to London I had an England trial, played five seasons for Kent, and once played the world champion Erland Kops at Wembley. All this time I was really wanting to be a better tennis player!

How did you come to join Kent?
My first job (1961) was at Eltham Clollge, which had built a tennis tradition. I was very involved with schools’ tennis from 1962-79, and at each school there was an outstanding player. At Eltham it was Keith Ajegbo, now Sir Keith in acknowledgment of his 20 years as Head of Deptford Green School and the fine advisory work he’s done ever since. At KCS Wimbledon (1964-69) it was Buster Mottram, whose Davis Cup record on Continental clay bears comparison with Murray’s. Then at King’s Canterbury in the late 1970s it was Malcolm Smith, now Chairman of KLTA’s Board of Management.
Editing the Handbook for the 125th reminded me of when boys from the Merchant Navy training ship HMS Worcester came ashore and beat Eltham for the 1964 Under 16 title. A title that goes to “Off Greenhithe” is almost as distinctive as the 1953 Division 5 title being won by West Wickham Home Guard!

*Since you played your first County Week for Kent in 1963 you seem to have gone on and on?*

Yes, it must seem so, though I did have a break from 1975-87, and indeed played no tennis at all 1979-87. These were years in which I was trying to combine (“Fool!” I hear you say) running a boys’ boarding house at King’s (a 24/7 task) with maintaining commitments I’d developed when Head of English. There were journeys to Maidstone as a co-opted member of the Kent Education Committee; lobbying for the National Council for Educational Standards (less Waiting for Godot than Waiting for Gove); and commenting on papers from the Government’s Assessment of Performance Unit.

Having worn myself out on all that (and some more) I was doubly lucky when I came back to tennis: competitive Seniors (Vets) tennis was well under way, and over winter 1988-89 the dire playing conditions of the old Canterbury LTC (though with every tribute to 1954-58 Kent Ladies captain Denise Collier and her husband John, but for whom there would have been no club at all) began their transformation into today’s gold standard facilities at Polo Farm Sports Club.

You had a hand in that?

None at all, initially. The old site on which John and Denise had founded the post-War club in 1948 was purchased freehold in 1963, and when this was auctioned the sum obtained was far in excess of expectations. Whatever doubts the hockey players and cricketers had had about taking us on were largely (though not universally) set aside, and we were well established by the time I became Chairman LTC in 1994. I served in this role till 2007, with a brief to bring indoor courts to Polo Farm. This took twelve years, and would not have happened without Stuart Smith’s loyal support, the energy the late Roger Smith brought down from North Kent to develop tennis in East Kent, and latterly Roger Bottomley’s finese in matching Polo’s needs to those of Kent Tennis. (I could do with a troika like that as we seek 90k for repairs to Bridge Parish Church!).

I chaired the Steering Committee from about 2001, and have chaired the Management Committee ever since the formal opening in July 2006. The Centre aims at a turnover of 90k, now has 350 junior players, is being superbly run by Lina Hopkins (who represents the Ashford League on the KLTA Council), and is on course to pay off its City Council loan in 2020 and the LTA one in 2025. I wish it had been there when our daughters were younger! One of its best features is the sense of teamwork and community that Head Coach Simon Grieve has encouraged, with strong support from the other coaches. Climbing tennis ladders can be a lonely business; but CITC is home.

TheTennis Club is thriving too?

Every club or voluntary organisation these days finds it difficult to “hand the torch on”: either people are too busy or the culture has changed. But Peter Abbotts (as Match Secretary and many other roles) has been one of the outstanding volunteers in Kent tennis, and Jonathan Potter (also Captain Kent M65) has led the way into six high-quality artificial clay courts, with the hope of a possible further four as Polo Farm’s relationship with Canterbury Christ Church University develops. Already there is a £1.8m. sports hall in use, behind our Centre. The three of us work together to keep the respect of the other sections at Polo: this remains vital.

...An Interview with Stephen Woodley

Returning to your own tennis, what special memories do you have?

At singles, beating Roger Taylor in the Cumberland Club tournament when he was first attached to the Davis Cup squad, in 1961. It was cold, he was bored, he kept throwing up lobs. I had been playing badminton all winter, and the one thing I could do was smash. I next played him 30 years later, and refrained from saying, “I’m 1-0 up” which was just as well because he beat me 6-0,6-0, only (as the saying has it) it wasn’t as close as that...

At doubles, partnering Roger Ambrose at Surbiton against Santana and Arilla in front of a crowd of a thousand on Bank Holiday Monday, 1967. I also partnered Roger in my first match for All England LTC in that year, immediately after County Week. I seem to remember missing a lot of returns, while Roger hit his in. He must have a good memory, because when we played together against Kooyong for a touring AELTC team on a burning Melbourne day almost 40 years later he said, at set down and 0-2, “Get your returns back into court, Stephen,” and then at 4-4, “Get your first service in, Stephen.” We won in the end.

And how about when playing for Kent?

Undoubtedly partnering Malcolm Gibb at 1st pair at Eastbourne in 1965, the only time in my 11 County Weeks for Kent that we were in the top group. As for singles, the first of the two times I played in the Hard Court Singles against four times Wimbledon singles quarter-finalist Bobby Wilson (Middlesex). After our game, Bobby (never known for his tact) said, “You seemed very slow today”, and then “You did not seem able to read my shots”. How to reply? I didn’t, though perhaps I should have said, “Look, when I play you I am totally outnumbered.”

Though an incomer to Kent tennis, I now find (thanks to the searches of our new President Denis Costelloe) that I have apparently represented Kent in Inter-County matches more times than anyone else, thanks to the growth of Seniors(Vets) competitions.

Please go to page 38

www.kenttennis.net
Did you enjoy editing the 2015 KLTA Handbook?
Yes, and the company of everyone I worked with. I hope it won’t be the last. Archivists and historians everywhere are worried by the evanescence of electronic records; it is the printed word (and image) that lasts, and that one turns back to. I’ve done the alumni publications of King’s Canterbury ever since I retired, so it was a pleasure to transfer this experience to Kent Tennis.

You are glad that Vets tennis developed so much, from the late 1970s onwards?
It’s been very rewarding, not least in Kent playing in teams with men who weren’t in a position to play so competitively as I did when younger. For fitness, camaraderie and competitiveness I wouldn’t have missed it, though like anything else in life there are times one thinks, “Why am I doing this?” But I’ve kept fit enough to have played 27 years of National Vets (Seniors) Championships, winning the first of three national doubles titles with Mike Fallon of Tunbridge Wells in 1993, on grass.

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67 times in prime-time County Week and HC Singles (following on from 40 such for Oxon) and now 104 for Kent Vets. As it happens, Keith Spurgeon played 67 prime and 89 Vets, so very close. In real terms, Pauline Cox (nee Titchener) deserves to rank ahead of us, 163 of her 166 appearances having been for the full County team.

And matches for Canterbury?
Hundreds of them, I would think, over the periods 1972-79 and 1989-now, and at every level, very many of them thanks to the matchless dedication of Peter Abbotts as Match Secretary. But not long ago I turned down an invitation to turn out for M6, so maybe my motivation is beginning to wane. Besides Peter, I’d like to praise and thank everyone who keeps these diverse competitions going, from Angela Darby down

Has yours been a tennis marriage?
Yes, to a degree, though fortunately we do have other shared interests. Judy learned her tennis at a small neighbourhood club in Raynes Park, reached the Girls Doubles Final at Junior Wimbledon (i.e. the national title), played for Surrey A, and was in the Ealing Common team that won the Middlesex League Mixed in 1963. She moved on to other sports, we married, and lived way out in Canterbury. There were children, she ran Girls’Games at King’s for many years, and finally came back into competition in the Kent 60s team, with much encouragement from Cynthia and Marcia, and forging a particularly happy partnership with Helen Jary. I think she would say that she is a keen tennis player whilst I’m a fanatical one!

And there have been strains: I took on the Kent captaincy 1973-74 (introducing Paul Bourdon, Chris Wells and Mike Reynolds to County Week) when our children were tiny, and shouldn’t have done, given a six day working week at King’s School. I can only hope it has all worked out in the end.

Are you a good husband?
I’ve been a very lucky one, given the amount of support I’ve asked of Judy, and the regrettable fact that when it comes to DIY I’m in the “Give him the job and he’ll finish off the tools” category. It’s not every married couple who had their first date at Catford Bridge, Private Banks ground, 1968, teatime during a Kent A match with Ealing Common. Living in Kent ever since 1969, I’ve been helped by Kent tennis to my first proper GB selection, doubles in the 75s Bitsy Grant Cup in 2013 (I’d had a reserve role 20 years earlier), we were able to let our children have that prized Kent thing, a grammar school education, and we were 12 years living very close to Canterbury Cathedral. That last is something incomparable, just as (we should all remember this in 2016) reading, watching or teaching Shakespeare is incomparable. So I shan’t be returning from my long Kentish odyssey to the Oxfordshire homeland where generations of Woodleys laboured and were laid to rest. Sad in its way, but Kent has been a most generous adopted home.
Shiela (Chuter) Kenyon

I guess that most of us would like to live to the age of 100. Well Sheila Grace Chuter did just that and at her request she asked that her obituary should read 1915-2015 (at last). Sheila’s tennis career spanned between the late 1920s right up to the mid fifties. Winning the Kent Girls singles in 1931 and 1932, she also took the doubles title with Miss J Clayton. County colours followed in 1934 where she was a regular in county teams. Sheila played at Wimbledon from 1933 to 1938 and was runner up in the Welsh championships of 1934. Looking at her Wimbledon results she lost to Mme Henrotin 7-5, 1-6, 6-2 in 1934 a year after losing to the great Helen Jacobs in 1933. 1938 was her best year where she reached the third round before going out to Margot Lumb. Sheila married Thomas (Tommy) Kenyon and her tennis county team career ran from 1933 to 1953. She won the Kent Ladies Doubles in 1946 with Margaret Steele.

We extend our deep sympathy to Sheila’s family.

Particia (Patsy) Ford

The death took place unexpectedly on 25th September of Patricia Ford a well-known and much-loved figure in post war Kent Tennis. Patsy, as she was known, came from a very distinguished tennis family. Her father Captain Frank Rodgers was regarded as one of the leading tennis coaches in London and the South East where he ran a Tennis School in Sydenham. His coaching career extended over fifty years and he is credited with having coached well over 4000 players. Patsy’s brother Jack was a more than useful Kent Junior and he won the Kent Boys singles of 1937 and 1938 along with the boys doubles with Geoff Guntrip and Mixed with Barbara Costerton.

Patsy came into prominence in 1946 with a remarkable run of five titles. Winning the Kent Girls Singles and Mixed Doubles with R.J. Ross she obtained a remarkable treble that year by winning the 18 and Under Championships of Great Britain, Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. It was by any standards a glorious achievement. County caps followed quickly and my records show that she made 31 appearances for Kent between 1949 and 1963. She was awarded Kent colours in 1947 and began forging a formidable county doubles partnership with Jean Quertier. Take July 1950 for instance where Jean and herself scored a hat-trick of victories against a strong Essex side. The remaining Kent team comprised of Denise Collier with Enid Andrews and Sheila Kenyon partnering Enid Sutton. Patsy played at Wimbledon from 1946 to 1950 reaching the third round in the 1950 singles before losing to the No 4 seed Mrs Pat Todd of the United States. She also competed in the Ladies and Mixed Doubles with partners Jean Walker–Smith, Enid Andrews, Freddie Della–Porter, Gerry Oakley and of course with her husband Eddie Ford. In 1949 she lost in the Ladies Doubles to the No 2 seeds Pat Todd and the renowned Gussie Moran.

Patsy married Eddie Ford in 1954, the union blessed with two daughters, Virginia and Barbara. Eddie Ford was a regular player in the Kent county side and later became county captain from 1964 to 1967. The Patsy and Eddie Ford partnership won the Kent summer mixed titles of 1954 and 1961 and the winter mixed title of 1961. Away from the tennis courts Patsy was recognised for her playing ability and status in the tennis world and she became a full member of the All England Club in 1967. Quite an honour in those days when the AELTC was rather male dominated. In years to come, indeed right up to this year’s Wimbledon, Patsy was a regular daily visitor to the Wimbledon championships, driving up in her little car and sitting at her usual table. Naturally, she was always ready to engage in cheerful conversation with all and sundry. Patsy is also fondly remembered by her friends and neighbours and she regularly transported her neighbours to Sunday morning church service. She led a full, active life and was at a small party the night before she unexpectedly passed away at her residence.

Our sympathy is extended to daughters Virginia and Barbara along with the grand and great grandchildren.

Denis Costelloe
Kent Tennis News Articles
If you want the publicity, it is up to you to send us your news, we are always happy to receive submissions from you or your club.

Guidelines for Website News:
1. A heading eg: ‘Kent U14 Girls - National Champions’
2. 1-10 words for the front page to entice people to open the article eg: ‘Kent Men Cup County Champions’
3. Up to 100 words about the topic.
4. A photo – this is a must, with captions and names.
5. Be aware that Kent News stays on the front page for one week only. LTA Central Media says news older than a week is old news and so it disappears from the front page but still can be found by clicking on the news tab.

To clarify how this differs from an article for the KLT.

Guidelines for the KLT:
We are now publishing the newsletter in print and electronically two times per year in May and October in an effort to keep the news and results as up to date as possible, as well as continuing with some of the features that have remained popular over the years.
In general terms an article of 300 words will constitute a full page with 600 words making a double page spread. Please remember that people don’t generally want to read huge slabs of text. Make the article light and entertaining bringing it to life with a picture or two, which must have either a caption, names or both.

Please send your submissions to: kltnews@silvester.co.uk

The deadline for the next edition is 31st October 2016

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