

## LTA COUNCILLORS REPORT

The last couple of years has been excellent with elite players from GB - Emma Raducanu, Cameron Norrie, Dan Evans, Jamie Murray, Neal Skupski, Liam Broady, Jack Draper, Ryan Peniston, Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid, Heather Watson, Katie Boulter, Harriet Dart, Jodie Burrage, Lucy Shuker, there has been a big improvement in the British players recently which is fantastic. Whilst the LTA can't take full credit for this the LTA performance pathway has improved and does offer some opportunities with many of these players going down this pathway.

There is a five-year target in the LTA which currently ends in 2023 and the biggest target is to get 10% of the children's population playing weekly.

The following are longer running LTA Initiatives:

**Play your Way** - which was brought in last year end has brought in a new audience to the game over the last year.

**Disability Tennis** – was badly hit by the pandemic but this is starting to come back to pre-pandemic numbers. There are lots of clubs in Wiltshire which run disability programmes and are part of our Open Court Programme. If you wish to get involved, please contact Kathryn Brooks.

**Lower social economics groups** – The LTA are focussed on opening up our sport to more people, not least children and young people from lower socio-economic groups.

Everything the LTA does is really with a view to opening up tennis - **Tennis Opened Up** – and growing tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming, enjoyable and inclusive. The LTA puts all its strategic activity under the following seven headings – visibility, innovation, investment, accessibility, engagement, performance and leadership. Likewise, we have a county plan that mirrors these strategies but is more relevant to what we do in the County.

A very important part of the plan is rewarding and recognising volunteers. If you have volunteers who have done something special or worked for a long time for your club, please do consider nominating them for the **LTA Awards** at the end of the year. The regional awards are presented at national tournaments and a day at the National Tennis Centre and at Wimbledon during the Championships.

**Collaborating with Counties** – a large amount of work that I have been involved with is aligning what counties do with the LTA so that there is a clear plan nationally. As part of this we have county dashboards to show us how we are moving towards each target and aims. There has been more clarity on the roles and responsibilities that the counties are required to carry out and we now have a new funding model. In return for this, counties are expected to carry out the core roles that have been identified. As part of this process, we are required to look at the Governance within the county and the legal structure of the county association.

**Inclusion Strategy** – The LTA has produced a document about this strategy and this can be found on their website. What we all need to try and do is to ensure that the people playing tennis reflects the diversity of the people in the county. We do still have some way to go to complete this process.

**Parks Strategy** – The Government has put in £22m and the LTA £8.5m from its own reserves to improve park courts and improve the journey into tennis. Most people will start tennis in the parks and not a club. The Government is looking to improve the quality of the courts and the gate systems so people can book and pay online and get access to the courts. The park courts in Old Town Swindon and Warminster Park are part of this scheme and hopefully will be open later this year.

**LTA Youth** – This has been undertaken and developed and driven through schools. It is not just playing tennis - it is all skills including hand and eye co-ordination, fun games, it is trying to make tennis fun and accessible for children and is being delivered by coaches and teachers. It is being rolled out very successfully in primary schools and is now being rolled out in a slightly different way in secondary schools, which is taking a little more time to develop.

**Competition Calendar** – More high-level tournaments are being put on in Britain for top County and lower national players to attend which reduces their need to travel so much. Giles Hussey, a Wiltshire player, has qualified and played in these tournaments and has really helped him by cutting down the cost of high-level competitions.

**World Tennis Number** – This is a new modern rating system with a scale ranging from 1-40 (1 for top players down to 40 for the lowest). This rating is given to everyone who plays regularly or wants a world tennis number can get one. This is not only available for singles but there is also a doubles world tennis number. This is beneficial to club players because it will be easier to find players of a similar standard. Even friendly matches can be entered for their number.

**Coach Education Development** – There has been a complete revamping of the coach education and how coaches can continue with professional development once they have passed their coaching badges. These are now video assessed by the LTA when they go through the training. This will ensure that there is consistency to the standards that the coaches reach.

**Padel** – Over the last 18 months padel has now come over the LTA remit and is growing fast. The priority is to build courts and there are currently 3 courts in Wiltshire at Bassett Down Golf Club. There are now 200 courts in the UK with the target of 250 courts by the end of 2022. It is a sport in its own right however, it is a good way to get into tennis and is easier than tennis.

**Sustainability** – The LTA want to support and work with the wider tennis community in taking steps to promote responsible consumption and reduce emissions.

**Wiltshire Tennis has signed up to the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework, which the details can be found on the Wiltshire Tennis website.**

**Swindon & District Tennis League have also signed up to this initiative and we are proud that we are the first County and league to have committed to a net zero emissions target and have adopted the United Nations Sports for Climate Action Framework.**

*Liz Bissett (LTA Councillor)*

## SAFEGUARDING REPORT

A report for the year 2022 was issued to all clubs/venues in January 2023. Below are updated details relating to items in that report.

**Policies:** our Anti-Doping Policy is now posted on the Wiltshire Tennis website. It applies to all involved in tennis, not simply players.

**LTA Safeguarding visits:** in addition to Safeguarding Support Visits, Vicki Gregg also makes unannounced visits to venues, as a 'health check'. I have forwarded details of the basic requirements to all venues. If you don't recall receipt, please do contact me as soon as possible via [safeguarding@wiltshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@wiltshiretennis.org.uk)

**LTA National Safeguarding Conference:** in response to your feedback, the elements of this year's conference will be spread over one week.

**Interactive Welfare Officer Training:** is now available and has been circulated to venues.

**Young Persons' Welfare Ambassador:** nationally, 54 young people aged from eleven to twenty-four years applied to join this pilot scheme being run by the LTA. All were informally interviewed by members of the LTA safeguarding team. We in Wiltshire are delighted that Andrew Luo, of Ramsbury Tennis Club, accepted a place on the scheme. Well done, Andrew, and many thanks to the other Wiltshire youngsters who expressed interest.

Lastly, and importantly, thank you to all our readers for your efforts to make Wiltshire tennis a safer sport.

*Liz Lewis, CSO. April 2023.*

## 8U- 14U COUNTY PERFORMANCE UPDATE

2022/2023 has been a busy year with several changes made to the set up and coaching programme. The programme continued as it was for most of 2022 due to Catherine and I taking over when it was already halfway through the year.

There have been lots of positives throughout the year – mixed results at county cups depending on the age groups, 10U boys made the Nationals Finals and taking on the big counties in great spirit. U14, U12, U11 girls were runner ups and missing out on getting to the National Finals.

On the programme front, the Talent ID day attracted 25 players trialling from around the county with 2016/2017 DOBs. This is healthy to have a large base at this age group to try and get the base/standard for years to come when they progress through the ages.

The age group squads for this year's 2023 county training programme have good numbers– see below:

8U – 25 (16 Boys/9 Girls)

9U – 26 (13 Boys/13 Girls)

10U – 13 (7 Boys/6 Girls)

12U - 26 (15 Boys/11 Girls)

14U – 14 (7 Boys/7 Girls)

TOTAL – 104 players

We were keen to give players the opportunities to play county tennis – but will have to closely monitor this for next year as we are full number wise. We feel that for the county to be successful we need to push the players that are pushing in their individual programmes and competing more regularly with results behind them.

Highlights of this years programme was opening the opportunities for coaches to apply for the captain's roles. This will ensure that it doesn't fall on the same captain's shoulders to do more than they should and also to spread the workload. We had an overwhelming response for this and this has allowed me the chance to see more coaches on court and see how they deliver to the county players. We have 13 coaches including Catherine and myself working in different age groups.

Another highlight was delivering a parents presentation at the very first camp of the year to each of the county squads to provide an overview of the county programme. This was very positive because it was an opportunity for us to be very clear on what we expect from the parents and players for each age group plus ensured parents understood the selection criteria and the process which is taken. The Presentation also gave parents the opportunity to ask us any questions regarding their child's tennis.

*Lewis and Catherine Flecher (Wiltshire 8U-14U Performance Cordinators)*

## 18U COUNTY CUP REPORT

### BOYS

The boys captained by Neil Watts and assisted by Will Baillie, played in Hull in Group 5A. The Boys battled hard all weekend and with a well deserved win on the final day, stay in the group.

FRIDAY – Lost 2-7 v Northumberland

SATURDAY – Lost 1-8 v Derbyshire

SUNDAY – Won 7-2 Nottinghamshire

TEAM: Michael M, Anthony L, Cameron S, Jaydan M, Billy H, Hari C, Oliver F and Kit W

Final Position: 3rd in Group

Results available at: <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/draw.aspx?id=D8508418-4B5A-437D-AAB4-2B4976CAF667&draw=1>

### GIRLS

The girls captained by Cath Fletcher and assisted by Lauren Prince played in Group 4A at Cardiff. A great result for 18u girls obtaining a well deserved 2nd place. What a thriller of a match wrapping up the last day with a 11-9 win in the match tiebreak!

FRIDAY – Lost v Dorset 2-7

SATURDAY – Won v Berkshire 5-4

SUNDAY – Won v Nottinghamshire 5-4

TEAM: Rebecca H, Jessica L, Gigi I, Sophie N, Olivia A, Tillie W, Isabella K and Emily K

Final Position: 2nd in Group

Results available at: <https://competitions.lta.org.uk/sport/draw.aspx?id=947AF94B-66C1-4DFB-B1BE-613614B2486C&draw=1>

*Neil Watts (18U County Performance Co-ordinator)*

## COMPETITION REPORT

### **National Schools League 2023**

In total there are 10 schools who have entered the league this year (up 2 from last year)- seebelow:

Bishop Wordsworth's School  
Godolphin  
Marlborough College  
South Wilts Grammar  
St Edmunds Girl's School  
Warminster School  
Wyvern College  
St Augustines Catholic College \*\*  
The Clarendon Academy \*\*

*\*\*New*

### **LTA Youth League and National Summer League 2023**

In total we have a total of 14 clubs (62 teams) who have entered the LTA Youth League and National Summer League – see below:

Ramsbury TC	Chippenham TC **
Riverside	David Lloyd Swindon **
RWBTC	Devizes **
Salisbury	Downton TC **
Trowbridge Park**	Marlborough TC **
Delta	Purton TC **
Wanborough TC**	Pewsey TC

*\*\*New*

We will be hosting events at RWBTC on the 14th May 2023 and Riverside 25th June 2023.

### **Play Your Way to Wimbledon**

Wiltshire had a total of 12 venues register for packs – see below:

Bishop Wordsworth's School	Victoria Park (Wiltshire event)
Chippenham Tennis Club	Swindon TC
Marshfield Tennis Club	Ramsbury TC
Pewsey Tennis Club	Pythouse Club
Riverside Tennis Club, Salisbury	Warminster School
Royal Wootton Bassett Tennis Club	Salisbury Lawn Tennis Club

The format also includes a number of new events:

- Adults Mens and Ladies Doubles
- Disability

# REPORT: AGM 2023



Wiltshire will be hosting the Adults Double final for Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. Venue to be Salisbury Tennis Club on the 24/25th June.

The 14u boys and girls County Final will be at Pewsey Tennis Club on the 2nd July 2023.

## **Junior County Championship 2023**

The County Championship has been uploaded on the the CMS system and goes live for entries on the 5th July. This will take place at Salisbury Tennis Club from the 20th - 26th August 2023

## **Adult County Championships 2023.**

After the success of the Adult County Championships last year we will be returning to Pewsey TC on the 23rd/24th September 2023.

## **Competitions in Wiltshire**

I am delighted that we have a number of new referees which are now coming on line to help increase the number of tournaments across Wiltshire.

These include:

Carolyn - Riverside

Rory - Salisbury

Nick - Downton

James– Devizes

*Sam Kingdon (Wiltshire Competition Co-ordinator)*