

SURREY TENNIS  
**QUARTERLY**



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# welcome TO THE STOQ



## A NOTE FROM... *the chairman*

What a terrific start to the year! Our county teams are performing strongly, Surrey players are succeeding in the nationals, our summer competition season has launched, and the Awards ceremony was an inspirational get-together. However, the message to everyone for 2024 is that although sports generally end with a result, in the case of Surrey Tennis we are only just getting going. Ahead of us is the peak time of year. With the French Open just around the corner, and the start to the grass court season in the UK barely six weeks away, players of all abilities are looking forward to getting on court. All things seem possible from May - but please let the sun shine for a change! Outdoor tennis players have unfortunately been the recipients of the fourth wettest February since 1766 and one of wettest

twelve months ever recorded.

Lying behind the fantastic rise in participation seen in the past few years, don't forget there stands an army of dedicated volunteers and supporters who make things happen for the 63,000 players, 450 coaches and over 200+ venues in the county. With teamwork evident everywhere, Surrey Tennis continues to launch new initiatives to make tennis more relevant, accessible, and welcoming to players of all backgrounds and standards. You'll see the fruits of some of those initiatives in this edition of the quarterly magazine. We'd like to wish everyone a wonderful start to the summer season. Both on and off court, we continue to strive towards our core values of excellence and kindness, in equal measure.



# AN AWARDS CEREMONY TO REMEMBER

On Saturday 20th April, we hosted our annual Celebration of Surrey Tennis, where we presented awards to all of the winners from the 2024 Surrey Tennis Awards and LTA Awards, presented by Lexus. In what was an extra special occasion thanks to Surrey being crowned County Cup Race Champions, we also welcomed players and captains from every age group that competed throughout the year, from 9U up to 35+. In what has become a tradition for winning the County Cup Race, we had our celebration at the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, which made the day all the more special.

As guests began filtering in, a selection of our County Cup players were taken on an exclusive tour around the grounds by AELTC members Alison Taylor (Surrey Tennis Trustee) and Julie Duckworth (Surrey Tennis Schools Coordinator), which a number of the players



said was something they will never forget. As the jazz band continued to play, our room at Wimbledon was buzzing with Surrey spirit as a wide demographic of players, coaches, clubs, volunteers, supporters, award winners, and LTA representatives all mingled and revelled in the positivity.

As everyone made their way to their seats, we began the first half of the ceremony where we announced the winners of our Surrey Tennis Awards and recognised all of our County Cup teams, inviting them on stage along with their captains. This year's celebration was hosted by Surrey's Performance Manager Justin Sherring, whose vast knowledge of all things Surrey Tennis made the evening extra special. As each of the County Cup teams went up on stage, they were invited to pitch themselves to the audience, explaining why they should be chosen as our County Cup team of the year. In the past, this award was chosen by our awards committee prior to the event, however this year, in a new twist, it was decided



that the audience would choose. This exciting new move certainly gave a whole new dynamic to the award and the entire room thoroughly enjoyed hearing players and captains tell tales of clutch match points, set points saved, epic team talks, and other key moments that led to their team's success. Everyone certainly felt that the change was a wise one, and we look forward to many more exciting stories in the future!

As the first half ended and everyone tucked into the splendid food provided by the All England Club, the audience was treated to some special Surrey magic as our magician made his way around the room. During the break, on all screens throughout the room, people were treated to the full televised match of Surrey superstar Mark Ceban, in his title-winning match at the prestigious Les Petits As in Tarbes.

The second half of the ceremony focused on the LTA Awards, presented by Lexus, and with all of our award winners in attendance, it certainly didn't disappoint. It was amazing to hear from such a wide demographic of winners about how they have impacted tennis in Surrey; we are enormously grateful for everyone's contributions, and we are so thrilled that their hard work has been recognised.

One of the major themes of the evening that was frequently mentioned by our amazing winners was 'family,' and we certainly felt that everyone in the room that day was part of the Surrey Tennis family. Nothing summed up that sense of family more than when Yasmin Griffin (our Girls' Endeavour Award winner) received a roaring standing ovation for her tireless battle against illness over the last two years. Yasmin's passion for tennis and desire to return to court is nothing short of monumental, and it certainly epitomises 'Surrey spirit.'



# FOR THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS

*Head to [www.surrey.tennis/awards](http://www.surrey.tennis/awards)*



## 2024 CHARITY GOLF DAY

We hope you will join us for our fourth annual Charity Golf and Tennis Day on 13 June in aid of two amazing charities: The West Surrey Motor Neurone Disease Association and Bright Ideas for Tennis. We will be returning to the scenic West Surrey Golf Club for a team competition, so start getting your team together! For those of you who don't play golf, the West Surrey Tennis Club will be hosting a fun tennis tournament and we also have a delicious BBQ that you can join us for!

### Golf:

- Teams of 4 for £340 (£85 pp) including breakfast, round of golf and BBQ. Places for 21 teams.
- Registration from 8:15, Team Briefing 9:00, Shot-gun start 9:30.
- Main competition: Team Stableford best 2

scores on each hole to count.

- Also prizes for Longest drive and Nearest the Pin

### Tennis:

- Individual Entries: £25 pp including tournament and BBQ.
- Round Robin and Finals event on 3 courts.
- Times: start 10:30, finish 13:00 approx.

### BBQ:

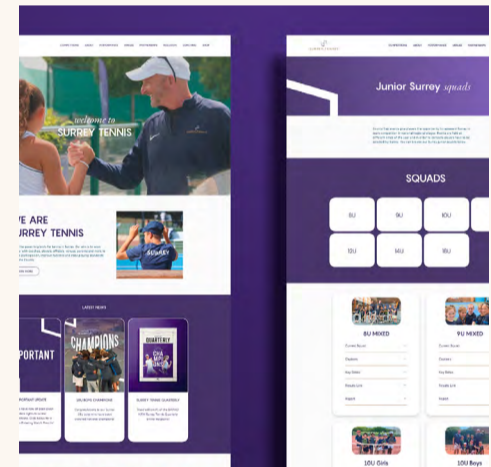
- £13 pp for the BBQ.
- Start time: 14:00 approx.
- Finish time: 16:00 approx
- Auction to follow BBQ

To sign up, simply head to [www.surrey.tennis/golf-day](http://www.surrey.tennis/golf-day). If you have any questions or require any further information, simply get in touch.



## WEBSITE UPDATES

The Surrey Tennis website is undergoing a gradual refresh to improve the user experience for all stakeholders. Although the main structure will remain the same, the functionality throughout is being updated and improved. During this process, you may notice some pages look slightly different, or at times, some pages may not be accessible. We are doing all we can to minimise disruption, but if you have any particular issues caused by the work, please get in touch via [lewis.woodham@surrey.tennis](mailto:lewis.woodham@surrey.tennis).



## DISCOUNTED TENNIS EQUIPMENT

All Surrey-registered venues and members of the "Surrey Coaches Group" are eligible to access the Surrey Tennis equipment store, which offers a wide variety of tennis equipment at discounted prices, including nets, training aids, storage solutions, umpire chairs, and more. The store also includes the hugely popular Surrey Ball Offer, where Wilson tennis balls can be purchased at great prices and delivered to your door.

To access the portal, a special password is required. If you already have your password, you can log in via [www.surrey.tennis/shop-equipment](http://www.surrey.tennis/shop-equipment). If you need a password, please email [admin@surrey.tennis](mailto:admin@surrey.tennis).



## GET YOUR KIT PORTAL

You may have noticed that a number of clubs in Surrey are proudly wearing their new Surrey Tennis NIKE club kit. A club kit portal allows clubs to offer an easy way for their members to purchase club-branded NIKE kit. All NIKE kit is available to members at a discounted rate through Surrey Tennis and can be purchased through an easy online process via Kitlocker. Clubs have full control over which kit is made available to their members, its colours, and embellishment options.

Contact us to learn more about our club kit portal and get yours set up. You can register your interest via [www.surrey.tennis/club-kit](http://www.surrey.tennis/club-kit).

# SURREY competitions

## SURREY WINTER KNOCKOUT FINALS

In March, the finals of the Surrey Knockouts Winter 23/24 took place, and it was an incredible day! Despite battling ever-changing weather, including bright sunshine, freezing winds, and rain downpours, we managed to play all our matches thanks to the excellent organisation of our Competitions Coordinator, Mandy Spicer, and our event referee, Carole Heritage. A huge thank you to Magdalen Park LTC for being such wonderful hosts. Your dedicated volunteers and welcoming atmosphere make your club one of our most popular host venues. A full list of our winners from the day is displayed to the right. Congratulations to everyone who competed!



**MD 65+**  
Stuart Denyer+Patrick Mears

**MS 65+**  
Tony Ingram  
**WD 60+**  
Bim Newton+Susie Reid

**WS 60+**  
Susie Reid  
**MD 55+**  
Nigel Grace+Julian Jones

**MS 55+**  
Julian Jones  
**WD 50+**  
Bim Newton+Amanda Spicer

**WS 50+**  
Cheryl Piper  
**XD 45+**  
Stacy Hatzipetrou+Tracey Bedford

**MD 45+**  
Alastair Tiddy+Kieron Tiddy

**MS 45+**  
Alastair Tiddy  
**WD 40+**  
Nicola Milburn+Cheryl Piper

**WS 40+**  
Hazel Middleton  
**WS 35+**  
Vivian Ngan

**MS 35+**  
Sid Gulati  
**Mixed Doubles**  
Ben Causer+Caroline Joy

**Womens Doubles**  
Alexandra Morgan+Gill Thompson

**Mens Doubles**  
Jamie Hill+Jake Martin  
**Womens Singles**  
Lucy Bear

**Mens Singles**  
Pavel Chichkanov

## Grand Slam Dates: 2024

We are always thrilled to have so much exciting Surrey talent at four Grand Slams throughout the year. So mark the following dates in your diary as you might be able to watch the likes of Jack Draper, Joe Salisbury, Lily Miyazaki, Jodie Burrage, Oliver Bonding, and many more compete against the world's best!

### ROLAND GARROS

20 May-9 June 2024

### WIMBLEDON

1-14 July 2024

### US OPEN

26 August-8 September 2024



# KNOW *your* ORGANISERS

## SURREY LEAGUE

**Men's Doubles 45+:** Mary Harvey - maryharvey44@icloud.com

**Men's Doubles 55+:** Mary Harvey - maryharvey44@icloud.com

**Men's Open, Div 1-4:** Mandy Spicer - competitions@surrey.tennis

**Men's Open, Div 5+ East:** Carol Sheridan - carol.sheridan2014@gmail.com

**Men's Open, Div 5+ West:** Andrew Medhurst - tennissurreyleagues2@gmail.com

**Men's Midweek:** Mary Harvey - maryharvey44@icloud.com

**Mixed Doubles, Div 1-4:** Mandy Spicer - competitions@surrey.tennis

**Mixed Doubles, Div 5+:** Barbara Awbery - barbawbery@yahoo.co.uk

**Women's Doubles 50+:** Vanessa Relleen - tennissurreyleagues4@gmail.com

**Women's Midweek:** Vanessa Relleen - tennissurreyleagues4@gmail.com

**Women's Open, Div 1-4:** Mandy Spicer - competitions@surrey.tennis

**Women's Open, Div 5+ East:** Chris Risebro - chris.risebro@surrey.tennis

**Women's Open, Div 5+ West:** John Clay - tennissurreyleagues1@gmail.com

## NATIONAL LEAGUE & YOUTH LEAGUE

**LTA Youth Leagues Div 1's:** Mandy Spicer - Competitions@surrey.tennis

**LTA Youth Leagues girls Div 2 onwards:** Kathy Birch - kathybirch@hotmail.com

**LTA Youth Leagues boys Div 2 onwards:** Ben Duckworth - benduck@live.co.uk

**LTA National Leagues Div 1's:** Mandy Spicer - Competitions@surrey.tennis

**LTA National Leagues Women Div 2 onwards:** Nicky Hodgetts - nickyhodgetts@btinternet.com

**LTA National Leagues Men Div 2 onwards:** Peter Warnock - warnockpw@gmail.com

## SURREY competitions

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# WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RUN THE LARGEST COMPETITIONS IN THE UK

BY *Mandy Spicer*

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Did you know that several of our Surrey Tennis competitions are actually the largest of their kind in the UK? With around 200 clubs and over 10,000 players competing in our events each year, we're fortunate to boast healthy participation across a variety of ages and abilities.

Our competitions calendar is year-round, as we cycle through summer and winter, with preparations for the next season beginning as one ends. Many do not realise the enormous amount of preparation, precision, and organisation required during this crossover. We are lucky in Surrey to have a strong network of volunteers, organisers, and staff to help make running our various events easier. However, despite everyone's gallant efforts, the sheer number of events we manage in Surrey can put immense strain on the Surrey Tennis office team.

We thought we would walk you through the structure of a year in competitions for Surrey Tennis. At the start of the year in January, we open entries for the summer league (our busiest season) and close entry in February, accepting entries for the Wilson Surrey Leagues, Surrey Knockouts, National League, Youth League, and Surrey Schools. Once entry closes, the Surrey team has around three weeks to process all entries, tidy up all applications, and then assign them to each event ready for us to create the leagues and draws. The summer season starts in late April, so time is precious at this stage and, sadly, we lose about a week to accepting late entries, which causes a number of issues. Once all the entries are checked and verified, we then need to create all of our leagues and draws for all of our events. To put it into perspective, in the space of three weeks, we handle 800+ Wilson Surrey League entries, 400+ Surrey Knockout entries, 500+ National League and Youth League entries, and 400+ Schools entries. This is one of the most crucial times in the competitions calendar for the Surrey team as we battle the clock to ensure all of our competitions



can begin on time. Although we are proud to have such a vibrant competitions programme, we feel it is important for clubs, coaches and players to understand the challenges we face when putting together these events.

As we launch our summer events, we are also processing and administering the closing of our winter season, which ends in May, and managing late requests for the summer season submitted by coaches, clubs, players, and teachers.

Midway through the summer season, around June, we start preparation for the upcoming winter season where we expect approximately 700+ Wilson Surrey League entries, 400+ NLJTT entries, 50+ Mixed Team Knockout entries, and 400+ Surrey

Knockout entries. When entry closes in September, we have a similar amount of time as the summer to get the winter season prepared and ready, all while processing the conclusion of the summer season, which also ends in September.

As you can see, our yearly competition calendar never slows down, which is why we are always grateful for the patience and understanding our Surrey players show us. We hope this article has given you a little more understanding of what it's like to run some of the largest competitions in the country! An extra quick thank you to all clubs, captains and players for their incredible patience as we moved over to the new LTA competition system.





SURREY.TENNIS

SURREY COUNTY  
*Championships*

2 0 2 4

SAVE *the* DATE

25 AUG - 1 SEPT

AELTC COMMUNITY TENNIS CENTRE



# “ ” AN EXCITING START TO THE YEAR...

BY *Justin Sherring*

It's County Cup season once again and as the LTA County Race Champions for 2023, the mighty Surrey are looking to put out strong teams and contend for the top spot again in 2023!

Our U18 Boys and Girls kicked off the season in great form by finishing 1st and 2nd respectively in Division 1, held in Sheffield at the end of February. Our teams, led by Jono Ward and Ben Cullen on the boys' side, and Anna Bedbrook and Alison Taylor on the girls' side, powered their way to national championship matches on the final day of the event. Huge congratulations to both teams!

The Surrey U9s have also been in action already, with both the boys' and girls' teams dominating the regional stages to make it to the South Finals in Southampton. There, the girls narrowly lost to a strong Middlesex team via a shootout to finish as runners-up, and the boys finished a very close 3rd behind Hertfordshire and Kent.

Many thanks and well done to our great coaches: Amy Cairns and Kate Maurici with the Surrey girls, and Andy Jeffrey and Jack Lane looking after the boys.

We now look forward to the 14s, 10s, and 11s County Cups, which take place between May and July.

Chris Daw retires from County Training and County Cup duties this season to focus on his ever-demanding job at The All England Community Ground. Surrey Tennis would like to thank him for his great contributions over the past five years. Thanks, Chris!

Enjoy your tennis!



# SURREY performance

## JUNIOR TRUST

The Surrey Junior Trust is a registered charity (Charity No.286244) established in 1983 with funds donated by a charitable settlement from the late Vernon Ely. The Trust continues to be supported by donations from the Vernon Ely settlement and Surrey Tennis which are invested by the Trustees. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to support the development of talented and aspiring junior players so that they can reach their potential and achieve their tennis ambitions. Grants may be provided to any eligible junior player, but priority will be given to help those from disadvantaged backgrounds or those who demonstrate a greater need.

### Funding available:

Grants will normally be in the range of £250 to £2000. A player may receive only one grant per year. Successful awarding in one year does not guarantee funding in a

future year. Trustees may choose to make an exceptional award at their absolute discretion. The costs for a young player to develop their tennis career can be considerable and we encourage a player's club to contribute also, either financially or in-kind. This may be, for example, through subsidised membership or contribution to coaching fees.

### Who can apply:

To be eligible for a grant a junior player must: Have already represented Surrey in competition, or be on a pathway for selection to represent Surrey in any age category up to and including Under 18. A player awarded a grant is expected to represent Surrey if requested.

### What can a grant be used for?

Funds can be used for any reasonable cost associated with the player's training or competitive tennis programme. This can include, but is not restricted to: Equipment (rackets, shoes, clothing, strings). Coaching fees. Tournament entry fees. Travel and accommodation for tournaments. Funds may not be used to cover club membership fees or general subsistence.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted on behalf of the player by a parent or guardian. There are two opportunities to apply per year. If you are unsuccessful with a submission you may resubmit an application for the next deadline, but you should make clear any change in circumstances. Deadlines for submitting an application in 2024 are:

- 5th May 2024
- 1st September 2024

To apply, head to [www.surrey.tennis/junior-trust](http://www.surrey.tennis/junior-trust). Decisions on whether to award a grant will be made by the Trustees. Assessment will be based on:

- Evidence of tennis potential.
- Aspiration to develop and progress in tennis
- Commitment to Surrey Tennis
- Financial need

We aim to communicate a decision within four weeks of an application deadline. Grants will be made as a single payment to the parent/guardian of successful applicants.



## SURREY STARS SHINE AT NATIONALS

Surrey stars thrived at the recent LTA 18U and 16U Junior Nationals at the National Tennis Centre, with three winners across all main draw events.

Mark Ceban was crowned 16U champion, defeating fellow Surrey player Liam Channon 6-2, 6-2. This win continues a successful year for Mark, who already won the prestigious Les Petit As title in Tarbes, claimed the 14U Junior Wimbledon title, competed for Great Britain in the Junior Davis Cup Finals, and reached the 14U Tennis Europe No.1 ranking.

Oli Bonding defeated Charlie Robertson 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 to claim the 18U title, earning a wildcard into Wimbledon qualifying. This continues a strong year for Oli, who became the first British boy since 2010 to win the J500 Blumenau title—also known as the Banana Bowl—last month.

Our final Surrey champion was Jay Johnson-Hauldren, who, alongside partner Rhys Lawlor, won the 18U doubles title, securing a spot on the Wimbledon grass this summer. Congratulations to all our Surrey stars on their achievements!

## SURREY performance

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### SURREY INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS: JANUARY - APRIL

ATP / WTA / ITF / Tennis Europe / ITF WCTT / ITF WTT

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#### **ARTHUR FERY**

January / Doubles / ATP / Bangkok Open 1

#### **JOE SALISBURY**

January / Doubles / ATP / Adelaide International

#### **LILY MIYAZAKI**

February / Singles / ITF / W75 Andrezieux-Boutheon

March / Singles / ITF / W75 CROISSY-BEAUBOURG

#### **EMILE HUDD**

February / Doubles / ITF / M15 SHARM ELSHEIKH

#### **ALLEGRA KORPANEC DAVIES**

February / Doubles / ITF / J100 MANACOR

#### **MARK CEBAN**

February / Singles / ITF / J60 SFAX

#### **GREGORY SLADE**

February / Singles & Doubles / ITF WCTT / BOLTON INDOOR ITF3

February / Doubles / ITF WCTT / BOLTON INDOOR ITF2

April / Doubles / ITF / Dunlop Kobe Open

#### **SOPHIA CUNINGHAME**

February / Doubles / Tennis Europe / Lexus Junior International Nottingham

April / Doubles / Tennis Europe / Lexus Junior International Wrexham 12U

#### **OLIVER BONDING**

March / Singles / ITF / J500 BLUMENAU

#### **MARK WHITEHOUSE**

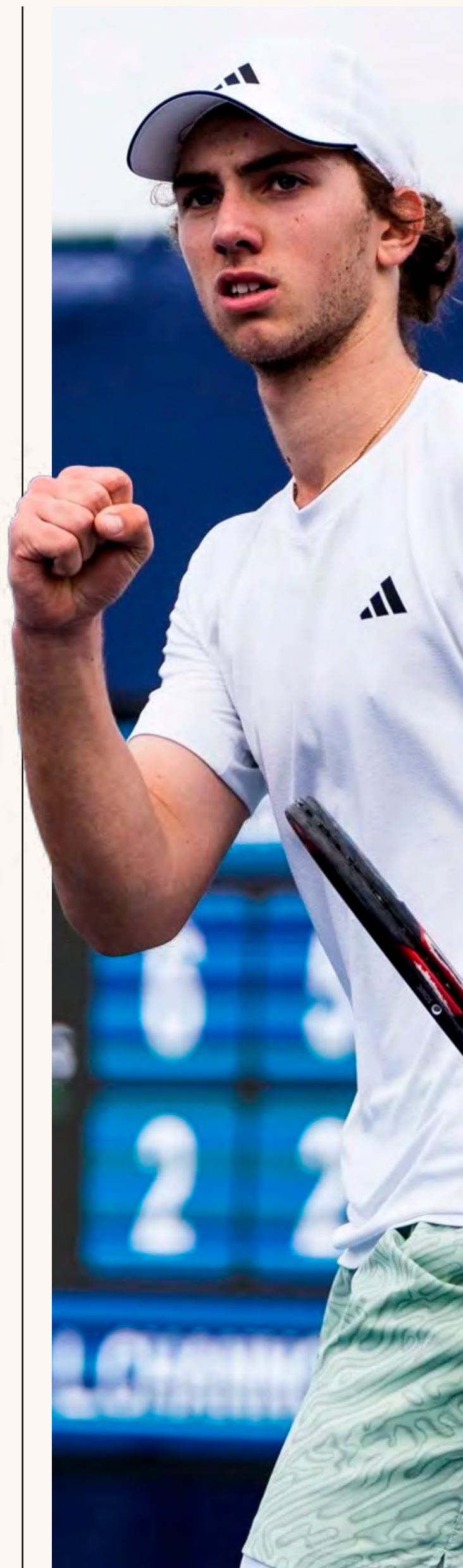
March / Doubles / ITF / M25 TRIMBACH

#### **BROOKE BLACK**

March / Singles & Doubles / ITF / J100 HANKO

#### **EMILY APPLETON**

April / Doubles / ITF / W75 CHIASSO





# WHY I LOVE BEING A SURREY TEAM CAPTAIN

BY *Kate Maurici*

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Captaining teams of younger players (8U and 9U) is a gloriously demanding role. Apart from training the players regularly at County Training and watching their development closely, the responsibility starts with team selection. This involves going through lots of performance data and then sitting and having several meetings with other county coaches and Surrey performance manager Justin Sherring to contextualise that data and decide who will be the best fit for the team in that competition.

Emotions can run high in this process but one of the things which I am passionate about in this role is that the discussions are democratic and that we consider what is best for the happiness and development of the child in their tennis at that stage and in that competition. It's not all about winning when they are 7 and 8 years old.

Once the pre-competition work is complete, there are usually Team T shirts to pick up, consent forms to manage and logistical details to arrange with parents, referees and the venue, all supported by the team at the Surrey office.

On the day itself, there is always a fantastic team spirit on arrival. At the last event I captained at the 9U National Finals, the atmosphere was so positive, thanks to excellent referee Gill Andersson, that actually the "team feel" extended from Surrey to all the team captains, parents and the referee team. A hard fought competitive event was played by 9U girls in a brilliantly supportive atmosphere. Despite all the pressures and anxieties

which children are having to face more and more these days in all areas of life, this event felt good and together we enabled some brilliant tennis.

A captain's responsibilities on the day are varied but immensely enjoyable. You don't get to sit down much. The players need to be warmed up in body and mind and ready to compete. It's important to meet and greet captains from other counties as you have to work with them throughout the day. The referee needs team nominations for every match and decisions on these can change throughout the day depending on how the team is performing and how players are feeling emotionally and physically.

Results sheets need to be completed, verified and submitted. Players need to be boosted and supported after a tough shootout. Decisions of court officials may need to be questioned and clarification sought.

A key role now is for captains to be available to players at the change of ends in matches. This is all about knowing your players. Some want tactics, some want encouragement, some want you to stay back until they've settled into the match. Some want a shoulder to cry on. Some want to laugh and let off steam with a joke. Some you just need to say "Breathe. I believe in you". I love this part of the job.

It's the part where you really feel as a coach you are there for them and they communicate what they want to give them the best possible chance of winning.

I've learned now not to forget to eat lunch, (which is very easy to do as there is no easy break). Bananas are always a great way to stay on top of things as Captains need to be "on it" for the whole day. Also captains invariably travel as a pair and another very pleasurable aspect of the job is working closely with another coach from the Surrey team, all of whom are excellent and very experienced.

At the end of the day there are either medals or tears or both and lots of photos, usually followed by a long drive back, which last time for me was accompanied by the added frisson of only having 6% left on my car charge on the M3 as plugging my car in just came too low in the list of priorities for the day where it was all about the players. I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to captain some fantastic players and see them develop from aged 6 at their first sessions to players now travelling to play ITF events. There is always something you can do better as a captain but the learning experience continues with each event you do and in short it is a privilege to be part of the players' early journeys in County Tennis.

# ADVERTISE *in the* STQ



## REACH A LARGE AUDIENCE OF DEDICATED TENNIS FANS

Full page, half page and quarter page advert space available

Visit [www.surrey.tennis/stq](http://www.surrey.tennis/stq) for more info

## SURREY venues

### ESHER CELEBRATES 125TH BIRTHDAY

Esher Tennis Club recently reached an impressive milestone, turning 125 years old, joining an exclusive group of Surrey clubs aged 125 and older. The club had an interesting start to life 125 years ago, when members of Esher Cricket Club decided they would like to play the new game of lawn tennis. They persuaded the cricket club to lay out three courts in the corner of the ground in New Road, and so in May 1898, Esher Lawn Tennis Club was born!

To commemorate this milestone, the club hosted an impressive celebration featuring a Davis Cup-style event for adult members, a Mexican BBQ, and plenty of tea and cake! The event was extremely well supported by members of all ages, with everyone thriving on the positive vibe throughout the club. Here's to the next 125 years!



### BRIGHT IDEAS AT SUTTON CHURCHES



On Thursday, March 14, Danny Sapsford held a disability awareness course at Sutton Churches Tennis Club as part of his charity, Bright Ideas for Tennis, which works with tennis clubs to offer free disability tennis programs to schools. Bright Ideas for Tennis provides tennis clubs with a free coach training course, £400 towards equipment, and a £300 grant for the coach running the course.

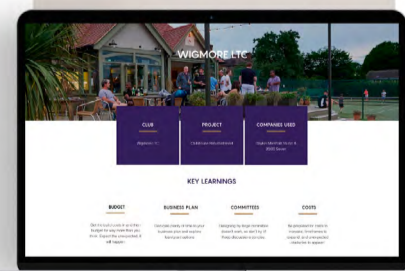
The scheme is fantastic, and it's an amazing way to give any child, regardless of ability, the opportunity to play tennis for free.

The course was excellent, with 15 volunteers benefiting from Danny and Stuart's expertise in working with hundreds of disabled children. This opportunity is open to all clubs, and interested clubs should contact Danny via [brightideasfortennis.org](http://brightideasfortennis.org).

### WE WANT YOUR CASE STUDIES

Has your tennis venue recently refurbished their courts? Have they tested a new court booking software? Perhaps they have installed new floodlights? We want to hear from you! We are collecting case studies from across Surrey with a view to helping other venues learn and improve. We already have great case studies from Redhill LTC's new courts and Wigmore LTC's clubhouse refurbishment. If you would like to submit a case study, you can do so by heading to [www.surrey.tennis/case-studies](http://www.surrey.tennis/case-studies).

## CASE STUDIES



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
31 AUGUST '24

**The Surrey Tennis Conference**  
Sharing industry expertise for the benefit of  
Surrey venues and coaches



## DIVERSITY and INCLUSION

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**I USE MY TIME ON THE COURT AS A MOMENT OF SELF-CARE, WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR MY WELL-BEING.**



## MY TENNIS JOURNEY

BY *Sheila*

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Hello, my name is Sheila. I'm 33, and I recently had my third baby after a 6-year gap. My love affair with tennis began when I was a child, even though I was surrounded by football lovers. I find it deeply satisfying, and nothing is better than hitting the ball, especially after a frustrating day.

In my late teens, I joined Cassac Tennis Club at Lloyd Park in Croydon, and I have been a member ever since. Pregnancy is a different journey for every mom. The changes our bodies go through can be significant, both physically and psychologically. This has certainly been the case for me in all my pregnancies. It took me 5 years after my second

child to start playing tennis again, but I was determined that would not be the case this time around.

I am proud to say it has taken me only three months this time. I'm not on the court to gain back my "pre-pregnancy" body; I'm simply there because movement makes me feel good. Tennis allows me to engage my mind and body simultaneously in a fun way. It can be low impact or high impact, depending on who I play with. At Cassac Tennis Club, you find a mixture of players, all eager to engage in play, which makes the social aspect of tennis unparalleled by any other sport. Having a newborn can feel isolating, with limited time for yourself, but bringing her along on court has helped. Plus, it allows for a quick break when you're out of breath without feeling too unfit.

I use my time on the court as a moment of self-care, which is so important for my well-being. As I focus on hitting groundstrokes and regaining my confidence, I hope to start playing lower-level matches and keep improving my game.

## TEAM SURREY OUT IN FORCE TO SUPPORT 'WOMEN IN SPORT' EVENT

A number of Surrey councillors and staff were in the crowd as LTA Councillor Jonathan Dawes hosted the 'Trailblazing Women in Sport Panel' at King's College London (former University of the Year Surrey award winner). Pictured from left to right, Lewis Woodham (Brand Manager), Roy Staniland (County Secretary), Kate Maurici (Trustee and Venue & Communications Committee Chair) and Alison Taylor (Trustee).

The event was a huge success and everyone in attendance got a wonderful insight into the highs and low's that everyone on the panel had faced, including former pro / commentator Sam Smith and WTA founder Ingrid Löfdahl Bentzer.







# YOUNG CHAMPS' NEW INITIATIVE: PROJECT 10K

BY *Chris Marshall*

In 2022, G Tennis was awarded both Surrey and then UK LTA Park Venue of the Year. We have been operating for about 8 years in South London, but pre-Covid, we were always conscious that the program did not reflect our local community. During lockdown, we decided to start a crowdfund, hoping to raise £3,500 so that 100 children could do the LTA Youth Start course for free. To our surprise, we raised nearly £5,500, and in the summer of 2021, we delivered the course to the first 60 children, and it was a huge success. Since we had surpassed our target, we could offer a heavily subsidized follow-up, charging £2 per hour (£24 for 12 weeks). We had 50% of the kids sign up, which was amazing and confirmed that tennis wasn't the problem; it was the cost.

Since then, we have continued to fundraise, and in 2023, we delivered almost 1,400 free hours to local kids. We have also just set up our own charity called Young Champs, and our hope is that we can now grow the project even further. Five years ago, we started working with an amazing local charity that supports single parents, called the Cheer Trust. All the children are from lower socio-economic groups and would typically not

consider tennis as a sport for them. Yet most of them are still playing, with some even volunteering as coaches. Any child that showed more interest would be offered an extra class for free (at our expense). One girl in particular clearly had potential and started coming twice a week. In September 2022, I took her, along with another girl who came through the free summer program, to the Surrey County fun day. To my surprise, both were picked and started county training. Fast forward to today, and one of the girls, Sabein, has won her last three tournaments without losing a match. She is still in the County Squad and has also represented Surrey in the County Cup. Currently, I do two private lessons a week with her (pro bono), and she does a couple of group sessions too. With holiday camps and tournament entry in 2023 alone, the total cost (if I had charged) would be approximately £6,000 for the year. With 29% of the UK population living in poverty, you have to ask yourself: how many families could actually afford anywhere near this amount for coaching?

Young Champs is about to launch its first campaign, called Project 10k, backed by Surrey's very own Jack Draper. It aims to get

100 clubs, coaches, or programs to offer 2 hours of coaching a week for £2 per session (or less) for one year. This would result in 10,000 genuinely affordable hours of coaching. The campaign has two main aims: i) to start a conversation about how clubs and venues can open up pathways in their programs for kids who may not be able to afford coaching, and ii) for the perception of tennis as a sport to change as a result. If you are reading this and thinking, "We already do this," then please sign up so we can shine a light on your work. Or, if you like the idea but don't know how to start, we will offer support and guidance. We truly believe the only way our great sport can be perceived as inclusive is if it becomes affordable to everyone.

If you have a talented child that plays football, there are pathways for them to make it to the highest level through clubs and academies. Currently, there is no recognized pathway for a child from a lower-income family to reach the highest level in tennis.

For more information about our charity or to sign up for the campaign, please visit: [youngchamps.uk/project-10k](https://youngchamps.uk/project-10k).

# COACH BURSARY SCHEME

BY *Tim Sagar*

We have made some amendments to our Coach Bursary Scheme that hopefully benefit a wider range of coaches. Surrey Tennis is prepared to consider subsidising the costs of LTA Accredited and Accredited+ coaches working in the County to become a fully qualified or advance their qualifications ('assistant' coach qualifications not eligible) to benefit the Tennis community in Surrey. This offer is open to members of the Surrey Coaches Group working at a

Surrey registered venue coaching a minimum of 20hrs/week (or working towards this) and not in full-time education.

### Application Requirements.

Any applicant would need to provide full details of coaching they are currently undertaking and what they hope to achieve by furthering their qualifications, together with a letter of support from the venue or coaching programme they work at (park venues this can be from the Local Authority). We see this as a partnership investment, so we would be looking to contribute up to one-third of the cost (subject to the maximum\*) with the balance

being funded by the coach and/or the venue.

\*The maximum Surrey Tennis would consider offering for each level is as follows:

- LTA Level 2 - £360 (includes contribution towards Level 1)
- LTA Level 3 - £340
- LTA Level 4 - £530
- LTA Level 5 - £670
- PTR 'Mark of a Pro' or RPT Dual Certification (U10+Adult) - £220

### Return of Investment

In return, Surrey Tennis would want the following commitment from coaches who receive a bursary:

- 8 total hours within a

2-year period of receiving bursary.

This could include:

- Helping at the Surrey County Championships in August.
- Assisting at Welcome to Surrey Tennis Day
- Assisting at other Surrey Tennis events (including disability events or CPD days)

Applications should be sent to: [coaches@surrey.tennis](mailto:coaches@surrey.tennis). All applications will be considered equally at quarterly Surrey Coaches Group Committee Meetings, with applicants receiving notification within 6 weeks of submission on whether they have been successful.

## JOIN THE SURREY COACHES GROUP

By being a member, a coach can access a wide range of benefits that include:

- Local and subsidised CPD (including online webinars)
- Offers on coaching equipment via the Surrey Tennis equipment portal
- Coach Bursary Scheme for those looking to do their LTA Level 3 and Level 4 coaching qualifications
- Access to subsidised first aid and safeguarding courses
- Regular updates from the Coaches Group admin team on important and relevant information for coaches
- Access to forums that bring coaches together to discuss and share best practice

The Coaches Group strives to provide dedicated assistance and

tailored support to meet the needs of our coaches. We aim to strengthen our links with coaches in the County through listening and responding to their needs. To be eligible, a coach must be living in and/or working at a Surrey LTA registered venue and pay an annual membership of £10, which can be paid via our membership page on ClubSpark. To join head to [www.surrey.tennis/surrey-coaches-group](http://www.surrey.tennis/surrey-coaches-group)



## KEY COACHING CONTACTS

We have a number of key contacts within Surrey Tennis to help from a coaching perspective:

- Tim Sagar (Tennis Development Manager): [tim.sagar@surrey.tennis](mailto:tim.sagar@surrey.tennis)
- Justin Sherring (Performance Manager): [performance@surrey.tennis](mailto:performance@surrey.tennis)
- Matt Trevail (Coach Committee Chair): [headoftennis@wltcc.org.uk](mailto:headoftennis@wltcc.org.uk)

## SAVE THE DATE

We are excited to announce we have set the date of Saturday 31 August to run a Surrey Conference. This will be held at the AELTC Community Sports Ground Raynes Park, and there be things on offer for coaches and venues. In the morning, we plan to run an on-court CPD session for coaches and in the afternoon, we are looking to bring in different companies from the field of tennis to showcase their products. We plan for the afternoon part of the conference to be for both coaches and key volunteers/staff at venues. Further details, including how to sign up for the conference will be announced nearer the time.

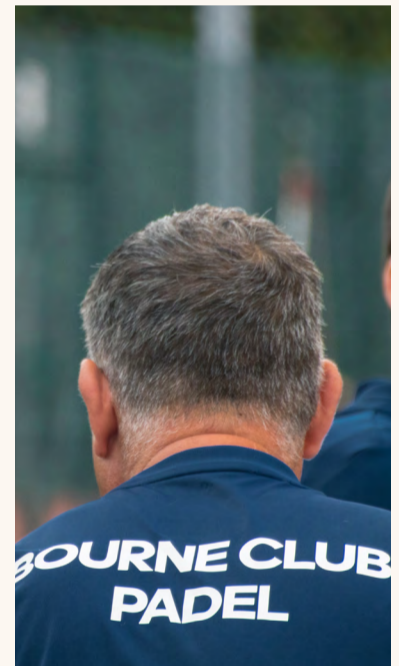


## SURREY PADEL LEAGUE SPRING UPDATE

The spring edition of the Surrey Padel Leagues is now in full flow. We saw an increase in entries with a total of 47 teams entering from 8 venues. There will be a Finals Day held on Saturday 15 June at Epsom LTC for teams that are winners of their group\* (\*some runners up may also go through where applicable). This promises to be a great day and we will be promoting further information in the coming weeks.

# MORE PADEL COURTS IN SURREY

Padel continues to surge in Surrey as more courts are being developed. At the end of 2023, the LTA reported that there were 23 venues with at least one padel court, with a total of 46 courts across Surrey. This is a big increase from 36 total courts in 2022. This number is likely to increase again in 2024 as we are aware of several venues looking to add more padel courts. As the sport continues to grow, Surrey Tennis will look to see how it can further support registered venues. Padel facility development is the type of project we will consider for our Interest Free Loan Scheme. Furthermore, we will look to develop the Surrey Padel Leagues so that there is local competition on offer for club teams to participate in.



## HOW TO CHOOSE A PADEL RACKET

How do you choose a padel racket?

There are four things you should consider when buying a padel racket – whether it's your very first racket or you're looking for something new:

- Your level of play
- Shape of the racket
- Weight and density
- Sweet spot

### Your level of play

The first thing to consider is what level you play at. Most manufacturers will specify what level each of their rackets are aimed at – usually ranging from beginners to intermediate, advanced and pro-level rackets. Before you buy a racket, make sure to read the racket description and see

if it suits your level and style of play.

### Shape of the racket

There are three basic shapes of padel racket – each one tailored to different styles and types of gameplay:

- Diamond – increases the speed and power of your shots. Most suited to players who like to play more attacking shots
- Round – increases control and consistency. Most suited to players who like to play longer rallies and have a defensive game
- Teardrop – balance between power and control. Most suitable for all-round players

For anyone just starting out, we'd recommend going for a round or teardrop shaped padel racket.

### Weight and density

Rackets usually weigh between 340-390g, with different weights impacting the response when you hit the ball:

- Light padel rackets (340-360g) – increases control and reduces power
- Heavy padel rackets (370-390g) – increases power and reduces control (more suitable for advanced / pro players)

For beginners, we recommend a mid-weight racket between 360-370g to give you a good mix of power and control. The density of your padel racket will also contribute to how you play as well:

- Hard padel rackets – increases control but firmer shot response
- Soft padel rackets – increases power and absorbs shot response

Top tip: If you suffer from any form of arm pain, a lighter, softer racket could be more suitable for you to reduce the impact of shot.



## NEXT EDITION

The next edition of the STQ will be released in July '24 so keep an eye out. A reminder you can sign up to receive the STQ by heading to [www.surrey.tennis/stq](http://www.surrey.tennis/stq).

If you would like to contribute to the STQ or if you would like to advertise in the STQ, you can head to [www.surrey.tennis/stq](http://www.surrey.tennis/stq) or email [lewis.woodham@surrey.tennis](mailto:lewis.woodham@surrey.tennis)



## KEY CONTACTS

Here are a selection of key contacts from the Surrey Tennis office:

**Tim Sagar, Tennis Development Manager:**  
[tim.sagar@surrey.tennis](mailto:tim.sagar@surrey.tennis)

**Deborah Slater, Office Manager:**  
[deborah.slater@surrey.tennis](mailto:deborah.slater@surrey.tennis)

**Lewis Woodham, Brand Manager:**  
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**Justin Sherring, Performance Manager:**  
[performance@surrey.tennis](mailto:performance@surrey.tennis)

**Mandy Spicer, Competitions Administrator:**  
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**Julie Duckworth, Schools Coordinator:**  
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**Chris Risebro, Finance Manager:**  
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