

Annual General Meeting 2020

Reports

Chairman / LTA Councillor / Executive Committee – Tim Arthur & Mark Sanders

Performance Committee Report including Junior Teams – Sue Rich

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Report for the LTA Cambridgeshire Tennis AGM 18 March 2020

from

The LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire and the Chair of LTA Cambridgeshire Tennis

Mark Sanders (Councillor) and Tim Arthur (Chair) wish to offer a joint report to the 2020 AGM to outline what have been our priorities during 2019.

Mark Sanders: LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire

The role of LTA Councillor for Cambridgeshire is appointed by the Management Committee on a three yearly basis and is subject to performance review by national LTA. My role is to represent the County's places to play, volunteers and coaches at both regional and national meetings. I am also involved in the shaping and reviewing of strategy at national and regional level prior to implementation. I consider my role as a back-bench MP for tennis representing Cambridgeshire!

- 1. Attendance:** During 2019 I have attended 3 out of 4 Council Meetings at Roehampton. Laura Nigri represented the County at the fourth meeting. I attended all regional meetings (2) and all Cambs Executive meetings. I currently sit on two national work groups: the Seniors Tennis GB Council which manages competition and strategy concerning tennis for those aged 35 and above; the LTA County Cup Work Stream which is involved with competition at all ages. Please contact me if you have any thoughts on aspects of LTA policy or delivery that you would like me to take up with the relevant personnel at national level.
- 2. Major National Matters:**

The following are the major national projects which impact on clubs. I will keep explanations brief.

 - *Tennis Opened Up:* Last year I reported that the LTA under its new Chief Executive Scott Lloyd had undertaken a major strategic review. The vision "Tennis Opened Up" has now been in place for more than a year and is making progress. All counties have been asked to produce a strategic plan for the period 2019-2023 and we will tell you more about this at the AGM as the Cambridgeshire strategic plan sets our county priorities.
You may have noticed that LTA has a new logo and every aspect of tennis under LTA leadership includes this logo. This gives a more joined up feeling to what tennis initiatives are promoted by LTA. This new branding applies also to counties and you will see that the county organisation is now known as LTA Cambridgeshire Tennis.
 - *Central & East Region:* Cambridgeshire is within this region which covers counties from Norfolk to Oxfordshire. We have a good relationship with other counties in the region whilst retaining a strong element of competition when we meet them in county matches. We also work closely with the LTA regional team who are now ably managed by Head of Region Jill Osleger.

- *Schools and Disability Tennis:* Following the integration of the Tennis Foundation into the LTA, responsibility for these areas of the game are now handled by LTA. My view is that this is a positive move and the Management Committee is very focused on how it can work more with schools, particularly primary schools. We are very pleased to have guidance in this regard from Claire McDonnell who works for the Cambridgeshire Schools Sports Partnership.
- *Registration October 2020:* Clubs need to keep in mind that Level 2 coaches operating in a registered place to play will be required to be LTA Accredited. Up until this time coaches at Level 3 and above are required to be accredited or accredited +.
- It is anticipated that the registration fee for each court will increase to £120 with reductions for grass courts and nomadic clubs. This is the first increase since October 2015. There will also be special registration options for parks and for schools – which we hope will result in more such places to play registering.
- *Wimbledon Ballot 2021:* From 2021 onwards, the Wimbledon Ballot for all places to play will be handled centrally by LTA. Many Councillors (including me) feel the option should be left to clubs to run their own ballot as a social occasion – but the decision has been made. The rationale is that it lifts administrative burden from clubs and it ensures fairness. Some clubs have been found to abuse the process in the past.
- *More Information:* I appreciate that most clubs will want to focus on what is relevant to them specifically rather than strategies being developed by the national governing bodies. I would be pleased to discuss any particular areas with you individually should you wish to know more. If you have any points you would like me to take back to the LTA do let me know. Please feel free to contact me on: mark.sanders@cambslta.org.uk

3. County Matters:

I will hand over to Tim to say something more about these.

Tim Arthur: Chair of LTA Cambridgeshire Tennis

The role of the Chair is appointed at the County AGM on an annual basis. The main duty is to co-ordinate the development of tennis in the County through chairing the main committee of volunteers and supervising a number of sub-committees which focus on key areas (Participation, Performance, Leagues and Communication & Media).

After many years of serving the County as Treasurer, Keith has decided to transition the role to a new volunteer in an orderly manner. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Keith for all his hard work and commitment to the County for over twenty years and which I have particularly appreciated during my tenure as chairman.

I am pleased to report that Arif Kibria will be attending the AGM with a view to taking over this role. Arif is an active player for Cambourne as well as being an accountant.

I would also like to express our thanks to Vernon Dudley who announced at the League AGM that he would be stepping down as League Secretary during the coming year. Vernon has also been an invaluable contributor to the county for almost twenty years in many roles and the success and vibrancy of our leagues are a testament to his efforts alongside his team. Sylvia Morton stepped down from the League Committee at the League AGM after more than twenty-five years' service and also deserves our thanks for her commitment and dedication.

- *Funding and Sponsorship:* Nick Tait will report on funding activity in his paper for the AGM. I have two major changes to bring to your attention. Firstly, the Cambridgeshire Fund, which offered grants for facilities development in the County, has closed after deploying £200,000. While we will try and obtain further support from central LTA, it is clear that they have moved away from grants, so we do not expect to succeed. The County is still able to offer some grant support for facilities improvements, but our resources are more limited and these grants tend to be a maximum of £5,000. We will continue to cover the costs of Steve Goswell in seeking third party grants. Secondly Tennis4Cambridgeshire, which has managed revenue funding for clubs over the past decade is being closed down and its resources moved into the County. We will still be able to offer funding to support participation initiatives from County but the need for a separate organisation no longer exists.
- *Safeguarding:* Thank you to all registered clubs and places to play that have worked on their safeguarding policies and training in 2019. It is critical that our places to play offer a safe and welcoming environment to all, especially children and vulnerable adults. The major development for re-registration in October 2020 is that level 2 coaches active in your clubs will need to be accredited – as mentioned by Mark above.
- *LTA Tennis for Kids:* This is the initiative established to celebrate the 2015 Davis Cup victory. The programme has been very successful in gaining new young entrants to tennis and is being repeated for 2020. We will hear more about this from Richard Bragg and Joanna Jeffels at the AGM. We would encourage clubs to get their coaches to offer this programme.
- *LTA Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends:* These useful promotional days can be run at any time of year from April onwards. The LTA has highlighted three weekends in 2020 that will benefit from marketing and promotional support, 16 & 17 May, 18 & 19 July and 26 & 27 September. Clubs can apply for a resource pack from LTA. We will hear more about this event at the AGM.
- *Junior Performance and County Programme Review:* We are currently reviewing the training opportunities that are on offer to junior performance players in the County. As we have very few large clubs in Cambridgeshire and many small ones, we feel it is essential to offer a centralised performance option at Hills Road. We appreciate that this favours performance players based in and around Cambridge but is a factor of available indoor courts. We have started running county sessions in Huntingdon this year and intend to hold county training sessions at a variety of locations from 2021 onwards.
- *Disability Tennis:* We would like to thank clubs that have introduced or expanded their tennis offering for those with disabilities. We have noticed an increase in opportunities across the county and would like particularly to acknowledge the support and advice that Steve Shaw has provided.

- *Communications:* A priority in our County Plan is to improve our channels of communication. We will look to modernise our website and also to introduce more posts on social media. If your club has any expertise in this area do let us know because Laura Nigri and Joanna Jeffels would be delighted to receive help.
- *LTA Tennis Awards:* Thank you to all of you who have submitted nominations. We received over 50 and many were very compelling. A huge congratulations from all of us to Lawrence Hopkins of Haslingfield Club and Simon Grainger of Chatteris Tennis Club who both went on to receive regional honours last year. Simon capped this by winning the national award for Lifetime Achievement announced at a fabulous presentation at the Wimbledon Championships. He also met and talked to the Duchess of Cambridge – who now knows where Chatteris is! Mark will be introducing the county winners for 2019 at our AGM.
- *ClubSpark:* Thanks again to all who responded to our request for feedback on ClubSpark. It is clear that the LTA understands how important this tool is to clubs and is working to improve the quality of the software – Mark and I are slightly disappointed in the timeliness of improving this software, but continue to push at every opportunity.
- *Management Committee and Sub-Committee Help:* We continue to seek volunteers to work with us either as part of the main executive team or on one of our sub-committees (Performance, Participation, League and Communications & Media). Over the recent years we have been able to attract a number of new volunteers and continue to believe that the more people who engage the lighter the load for all. If any of you would like to get involved please do not hesitate to talk to any one of the current committee – Mark and I are especially keen on identifying our successors at an early date to ensure an orderly transition; we both have enjoyed our time in post but believe that limiting tenure to a reasonable period will make the positions more attractive!

Finally, we would both like to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who work tirelessly within the county – especially those who have given so much for an extended period.

Mark Sanders and Tim Arthur

Report produced 18/02/2019

Performance Committee Report for the AGM 2020 by Sue Rich

Cambridgeshire teams had a successful year in 2019 and finished 11th equal in the County Cup race out of 44 Counties. Pride of place goes to the 10 and under boys who reached the National Finals; 9 and under team who won their group and men's winter County Cup team who got promoted. There were some excellent individual performances with Tom Hands getting his first ATP points.

The **boys 10 and under team** won their group and finished **4th overall in the National Finals**.

The **County 9 and under team** won their group in August.

The County **Men's team** got promoted in the Winter.

Lionel Cox team came second equal – best result for years.

Cambridgeshire Festival of Tennis (formerly County Closed) continued with a revamped format and **was very successful** engaging far more of the Clubs in the County. We had an increase of about 60 entries on 2018.

16 and under Nationals

Yujiro Onuma and Megan Carmichael represented Cambridgeshire in the singles, and both reached the quarter finals.

18 and under Nationals

Yujiro Onuma and Megan Carmichael represented Cambridgeshire in the 18 and under singles and doubles. Megan reached the quarter finals in the singles and Yujiro reached the semi-finals in the doubles.

Winter 2018-19

This winter Megan Carmichael reached the final of the National Winter tour event at 18 and under and Yujiro reached the semi-finals at 14 and under.

County Cup Events

The County Cup Race recognises a County's performance in all 7 of the County Cup Events starting with the 18 and under event in February and ending with the Senior Indoor event in November and this year included the 35-age group. The County with the most points across all the events is then recognised as the overall County Cup Race Champion for that year.

Cambs finished 11th equal this year which was a vast improvement on 2018.

18 and under County Cup 1st to 3rd March 2019

The team of Megan Carmichael, Kira Reuter, Chaaya Malik, Neha Kibria, Lydia Sivirentsava, Aisha Brown, Natasha Scott and Sama Malik travelled to Shrewsbury for 18 County Cup in Group 3b on Thursday 28th February. They were in a group with Staffordshire, Norfolk and Somerset.

On the Friday they played Staffordshire and first up was Aisha Brown at number 6 and she beat Daniela Kotara 6/4, 6/2 to get the team off to a good start. This was followed by Lydia beating Alice Dudley very convincingly 6/1, 6/1 to help Cambs to a 2/0 lead. Chaaya Malik at three had a tough game against Eloise Yates and lost 2/6, 2/6 and Neha Kibria on her County Cup debut was out played by Adeola Greatorex and lost 2/6, 0/6. So, after two rounds Cambs were tied with Staffs but then up stepped Kira Reuter in her first match for a year after knee surgery and she played amazingly to beat Kia Carvalho-Lander 6/1, 6/2. Megan Carmichael at number one then played Mae McCutcheon and again played a really solid and highly competitive match and won 7/5, 6/4 to give Cambs the advantage after the singles and a 4/2 lead.

The third pair doubles of Lydia and Natasha Scott then beat Isabelle Hickinbottom and Amy Lees 6/0, 6/2 to ensure Cambs the 5 rubbers needed to win this match. Although Megan and Sama Malik at pair two doubles competed well they lost to Adeola Greatorex and Eloise Yates 4/6, 4/6 and the top pairing of Kira Reuter and Aisha Brown lost to Kia Carvalho-Lander and Mae McCutcheon 1/6, 6/7. The day ended with a 5/4 win to Cambs and set them up for a good weekend. The highlight was seeing Kira back on the match court and playing so well.

On the Saturday Cambs took on Norfolk who were strengthened with their number one player Vianne Palffy. Kira Reuter was rested for the singles, so Natasha Scott came in at number 6 and got the team off to a really good start with a 6/2, 6/1 win over Amelia Brooks. This was followed with a 6/1, 6/0 win for Aisha Brown over Sian Stoppani. Next up at number 4 was Lydia Sivirentsava who comfortably beat Alix Jeremy 6/1, 6/1 giving Cambs a 3/0 lead. The top 3 singles however took on a different look and were all very competitive matches. Neha Kibria at number 3 had a really tough battle with Hannah Wilson Kemsley before being edged out 6/3, 4/6, 3/6. Chaaya Malik at two then had a very good match with Emily Barrett and came back well in the second set but just lost out in the third 3/6, 7/5, 3/6. The overall match was then evenly poised as Megan Carmichael took on Vianne Palffy. Megan won the first set comfortably 6/2, lost the second 3/6 and was well up in the third before Vianne staged a comeback and then narrowly lost 5/7 to put the overall score at 3 matches each.

Cambs third pairing of Natasha and Lydia got the team off to a good start in the doubles beating Hannah Mann and Hannah Wilson Kemsley 6/3, 6/4. The first pair of Kira Reuter and Aisha Brown were really fired up and easily beat Emily Barrett and Vianne Palffy 6/2, 6/0 to ensure Cambs were 5/3 up. Sama Malik and Megan Carmichael then faced Emily Barrett and Amelia Brooks and came back from 2/5 down to win the first set 7/6 and then from 2/5 down to win the second set 5/7 to finish the day with a 6/3 overall win.

This set up a final day with Cambs and Somerset both on two wins each although Somerset had won their respective matches 9/0 and 8/1!!! On paper Somerset were the stronger team but Cambs gave it their best shot and all the singles players put their heart and lungs out on the court for the County. Three courts were used so numbers 6,5 and 4 all started at the same time. First to finish was Natasha Scott and she got the team off to a great start with a 6/4, 6/3 win over Amelia Davies. Lydia had a tough battle against Annabelle Dais and lost 2/6, 2/6 while Aisha Brown was having a marathon match against Francesca Davis. Aisha lost the first set 3/6 and was 3/5 down in the second and later match points down but eventually managed to win the set 7/5. Chaaya Malik then started against Caitlin McLoughlin and despite some good play was beaten 2/6, 3/6. Aisha then went 4/1 up in the third before her opponent came back to 4/4 but then pulled the match round and won the third set

6/4. This left the match score at 2 matches a piece. Next up was Kira Reuter and Megan Carmichael – they both played very well but Megan lost 2/6, 3/6 to Grace Piper but Kira pulled her match round – she won the first set 6/2, dropped the second 3/6 and then got an early break in the third and held onto this and then broke again to win 6/2 in the third – great effort. After the singles we were 3 matches all. Cambs needed to win the third doubles match as our pair one were realistically going to have a tough match. Lydia and Natasha got off to a flying start and went 3/0 up and even had a deuce point to go 4/0 against Amelia Davis and Annabelle Davis. Once their opponents got a game then they started to get into the match. Had Cambs taken the three deuce points after this in the set then they would have won the set but unfortunately lost it 5/7 and then the Somerset pair gained more confidence and took the third set 6/2. As expected the Somerset first pair of Grace Piper and Nirva Patel then beat Megan and Chaaya 6/2, 6/3 – at this point Aisha and Kira at pair two were in a tie break in their first set and after losing it 6/7 they conceded as Somerset were already promoted.

Overall the girls really played their hearts out on the Sunday and were so unlucky not to get promoted – it was a great team effort and captain Sue Rich was really proud of the team.

The **boys played in Sheffield in Group 3a** and lost to Cheshire 2/7 but then beat Derbyshire 6/3 and beat Staffordshire 5/4 and so stayed in Group 3.

U18 County Cup 2019 - Boys - Group 3a - Sheffield

Cambridgeshire: Vincent Chen, Yujiro Onuma, Derrick Chen, Zach Cox, James Murphy, Darius Fatemi-Ghomi, Leon Kewney, Ethan Lee and Sam Clark.

Friday 1st March

Cambridgeshire vs Cheshire

Lost 2-7

Singles

1. Vincent Chen vs Llewelyn Bevan - **L 0-6, 7-6 (5), 2-6**
2. Yujiro Onuma vs Ben Nicol - **W 6-4, 7-6 (5)**
3. Derrick Chen vs Samuel Reeve - **W 7-6 (2), 6-7 (2), 6-0**
4. Zach Cox vs Jonah Gethin - **L 3-6, 6-4, 1-6**
5. James Murphy vs Tom Owen - **L 0-6, 0-6**
6. Darius Fatemi-Gomi vs Archie Blacklock - **L 1-6, 1-6**

Doubles

1. Yujiro Onuma & Derrick Chen vs Llewelyn Bevan & Tom Owen - **L 2-6, 6-3, 7-10**
2. Leon Kewney & Sam Clark vs Ben Nicol & Archie Blacklock - **L 7-6 (4), 3-6, 8-10**
3. Zach Cox & Darius Fatemi Ghomi vs Adam Bolchover & Matthew Cooper - **L 7-6 (4), 3-6, 8-10**

First day of under 18 County Cup 2019 saw the Cambridgeshire boys up against Cheshire. A tough day where the team were always chasing. Playing over 3 courts Darius, James and Zach were up first. At number 6 and 5 respectively, Darius and James had a tricky start to the weekend with stiff opposition in Archie Blacklock and Tom Owen. Both had many game point chances and battled hard but on the day couldn't capitalise resulting in a 6-1 6-1 loss for Darius and 6-0 6-0 loss for James. Following a mixed first set Cambs number 4 Zach found some excellent form in the second to level his match 3-6 6-4 with some intelligent patient tactics but just fell short in the end 6-1 in the third . 3-0 down halfway through the singles and up stepped Derrick, Yujiro and Vincent. Derrick and Yujiro got the first points on the board with wins over Samuel Reeve and Ben Nicol. Derrick showed real professionalism staying focused and calm to battle and outlast his opponent with a 6-0 set following split tiebreak sets. Likewise Yujiro never stopped the pressure against the wily lefty, finding the right plays at the right time to take the win 6-4, 7-6. Vincent at 1 had an up and down match. After a slow 0-6 start he found his form, driving heavy groundstrokes proving too much for Llewelyn Bevan in the second set for Vincent to come from a break down to level the match 7-6. Unfortunately he could quite keep the level and a tactical change from Llewelyn saw the set go away 2-6. So 2-4 down going into the doubles and all 3 matches came down to tie-break 3rd sets, unfortunately on the day all going against. Zach and Darius were up first against Adam Bolchover & Matthew Cooper. In the end the match was close but the Cheshire pair were just a little sharper and more clinical over all taking the match 10-8 in the championship tie-break. Leon subbed in for Vincent to partner Sam and again some excellent doubles was on show. Just not clinical enough on the final ball, with good serving and net closing making the difference at the key moments. The final match of the day had Yujiro and Derrick teaming up to take on Llewelyn Bevan & Tom Owen. Again some very exciting tennis was on show but the Cheshire team were just too solid and disciplined at the key moments which led to another 3rd set loss. So the boys took a 2-7 overall loss on day 1, but was a lot closer than the score would suggest.

Saturday 2nd March

Cambridgeshire vs Derbyshire

Won 6-3

Singles

1. Vincent Chen vs Bradley Buckland - **L 0-6, 2-6**
2. Yujiro Onuma vs Reuben Shahidullah- **W 6-2, 6-1**
3. Derrick Chen vs William Nolan - **W 2-6, 6-3, 6-2**
4. Zach Cox vs James Allen - **L 7-5, 3-6, 5-7**
5. Darius Fatemi-Gomi vs Martin Thomas - **W 6-0, 6-2**
6. Leon Kewney vs Alexander Ottewell - **W 6-4, 2-6, 6-1**

Doubles

1. Vincent Chen & Yujiro Onuma vs Bradley Buckland & James Allen - **L 3-6, 2-6**
2. Derrick Chen & Zach Cox vs William Nolan & Martin Thomas - **W 6-3, 7-5**
3. Leon Kewney & Sam Clark vs Alexander Ottewell & Reuben Shahidullah - **W 6-2, 6-4**

Day 2 the Cambs boys were facing Derbyshire. One change to the singles line up saw Leon Kewney come in for James Murphy. A strong start to the day got the team rolling with Darius convincingly beating Martin Thomas dropping only two games, whilst Leon on singles debut took out Alexander Ottewell. After losing a set lead he shot through set three 6-1. Zach at four had another tussle and narrowly lost to James Allen. After going down 3-1 in the third, he turned the set around to lead 5-3 30-0 but James Allen rallied to take the final set 7-5. Derrick produced another very professional performance to beat William Nolan 6-3, 6-2 following a lost first set and Yujiro made it two from two singles with a straight forward 2 and 1 victory over Reuben Shahidullah. The final singles match saw Vincent at one take on the experienced Bradley Buckland who proved too strong on the day. So 4-2 up going into the doubles and the tie was won but an exceptionally disciplined and complete performance by Sam and Leon, teaming up again to defeat Alexander Ottewell & Reuben Shahidullah 6-2, 6-4. Derrick and Zach playing at two also showed class to take the straight sets win over William Nolan & Martin Thomas, with the final match of the day going Derby's way as Bradley Buckland & James Allen beat Yujiro and Vincent. A solid win 6-3 from the boys keeping the potential for promotion alive.

Sunday 3rd March

Cambridgeshire vs Staffordshire

Won 5-4

Singles

1. Vincent Chen vs Finley Cook **L 1-6, 2-6**
2. Yujiro Onuma vs Rohan Thawait **W 6-4, 6-3**
3. Zach Cox vs Jamie Crothers **W 6-0, 6-2**
4. James Murphy vs Harrison Birch **L 1-6, 4-6**
5. Darius Fatemi-Gomi vs Solomon Shahar **W 6-1, 6-3**
6. Leon Kewney vs Oscar Searle **L 3-6, 2-6**

Doubles

1. Yujiro Onuma & Ethan Lee vs Harrison Birch & Finley Cook **W 6-4, 3-6, 10-7**
2. Zach Cox & Darius Fatemi-Gomi vs Jamie Crothers & Rohan Thawait **W 6-4, 6-0**
3. Leon Kewney & Sam Clark vs James Ledger & Oscar Searle **L 3-6, 3-6**

Staffordshire were the final tie for the Cambs boys and four rubbers would secure a place in the 3rd division for the following year. With no Derrick, Zach moved up to number three and James came back into the line up. The first three matches were mixed, with James and Leon fighting hard but struggling against very patient consistent opponents. Darius got the first win on the board with a convincing win over Solomon Shahar making the tie 1-2 to Staffordshire. The next three singles saw Zach and Yujiro perform well to take the boys 3-2 up. Vincent in the final singles of the day took on a strong Finley Cook and although creating some half chances, fell short. So 3-3 after the singles and the pressure was on, as if Staffordshire won all three doubles they would stay up and we would be relegated. Doubles one went to Staffordshire making the tie 3-4 with the final matches being fairly close. It was a tight 30 minutes of tennis but the boys rose to the occasion with Darius and Zach applying some clinical doubles to win a convincing 6-4, 6-0 match and secure the teams place in the division. So at 4-4 a win would take overall victory on the day and this was delivered in style by some lively and passionate doubles from Yujiro and on county cup debut, Ethan Lee who performed brilliantly.

So the weekend ended up with the Cambridgeshire boys in second and staying, with Cheshire getting promoted. Derbyshire took third and Staffordshire were relegated.

4th to 6th May 2019 – 14 and under County Cup

The girls played at Grantham and despite winning 2 of their three matches ended up fifth in the group of 6. They lost 1/5 to Lincolnshire; beat Buckinghamshire 4/2 so meaning in their group each County had one win but Cambs finished third. In the fifth/sixth play off they beat South of Scotland 6/0.

The boys played in Boston in a group of 4 and they lost 1/5 to Herts' 1/5 to North of Scotland and then drew 3 -3 with Bedfordshire and won on the tiebreak shoot out.

29th and 30th June 2019 – 12 and under County Cup

The girl's team of Marennah Prempeh, Daisy Whooley, Millie Hansgate, Florence Pritchard Gordon and Rezi Onibere played at Corby. They all played very well over the weekend and got to the final but narrowly lost to Nottinghamshire by 3 matches to 1 and so missed out on the finals. In the group they beat Northamptonshire 3 – 1 and Nottinghamshire in the tie break shoot out as the match was 2 all. In the semi-finals they beat Derbyshire 4-0.

The boys team of Jonny Cross, Sam Slater, Ryan Parkins, Herbie Morris and Zach Tabaczynski played at Caunton and drew 2 all with Kent but won on the shootout, beat Notts 4-0 and then in the semi-final beat Leicestershire 3-1 but narrowly lost to Kent in the final 1-3.

We also sent a Tier 2 boys' team to Easton where they finished second.

25th and 26th May 2019 – 10 and under County Cup

Congratulations to the boy's team who played in Lincoln and won their group and went to the finals in Sunderland. They beat Bucks, Notts, Leicestershire 4/0 and then Lincolnshire drew 2 all and won the shoot out!

In the **finals** they came a very creditable fourth – won the first 2 matches but then the number one player Herbie Morris went to play a TE event and consequently lost the next two matches!

The girls played well in Grantham and had their chances but couldn't quite pull through and came third. They beat Lincs and Notts 4/0; drew with Bucks but lost the shoot out and then lost 1/3 to Leicestershire.

17th August 2019 – 9 and under County Cup

This took place on Sat 17th August at Hills Road and I am pleased to report our team of Harry Voss, Arnas Simkus, Mason Harrigan, Alexi Tarazi, Olivia Kaser, May Havard and Navya Bhasin won their group and played some really good tennis.

They beat Norfolk 9-0; beat Bedfordshire 8-1 and then beat Suffolk 6-3. We had practiced all week, and this clearly paid off. Great team effort.

Tier 2 event at Easton – the boys came second to Essex.

4th and 5th May 2019 – Lionel Cox – captained by Jon Rademeyer and Paul Hope

On a freezing bank holiday weekend in May, the Cambs U9, U10 and U12 Boys and Girls played in the annual Lionel Cox trophy at Queenswood School.

On the Saturday, the U10's started very well with the Boys team of Herbie Morris, Leo Runciman and Jianzhou Mei beating Oxfordshire convincingly 3-0 and the girls beating Suffolk 2-1, with wins from Sophie Johnstone and Bibiana Krall. The U12's had a tough start with the boys losing a competitive match with Hertfordshire, Jonny Cross and Sam Slater both pushing their opponents all the way and the girls losing to a very strong Oxfordshire team. In the second round, the U10's then both lost very close matches, the boys to Hertfordshire despite a good win for Herbie Morris and Leo Runciman coming very close in a 3rd set and the girls lost to Essex, with Bibiana just losing 12-10 in a match tiebreak and playing extremely well!

The U9 girls played their entire tournament on the Saturday and the team of Oliva Kaser, Olivia Davis and May Havard played superbly beating Northants, Bucks and Oxfordshire and only losing narrowly to Essex 2-1 with both losses coming in close 3 set matches. They went into the playoff for 3rd / 4th against Suffolk and won convincingly 3-0 so a great result!

Sunday started superbly for the U12's, with wins for Jonny Cross and Ryan Parkins to help the boys beat Suffolk followed by a 3-0 win against Norfolk. The U12 girls then beat Berkshire 2-1 with good wins from Florence Pritchard-Gordon and Millie Hansgate. Rezi Onibere, Daisy Whooley and Millie then beat Bedfordshire. The U10 boys had a tough match with Suffolk, Herbie won at number 1 again and Leo again

came very close in a great 3 set match but Cambs unfortunately lost 2-1. The U10 girls played superbly to beat Northants then Sophie came back from a set down to help secure a win against Buckinghamshire after another win from Bibiana.

The U9 boys played their entire event on the Sunday, with the team of Harry Voss, Arnas Simkus and Mason Harrigan winning their group, beating Essex and Suffolk along the way and playing some excellent tennis. The final was incredibly close, with Harry losing 8-6 in the 3rd set and Mason winning which meant the boys came an excellent 2nd.

In the playoffs then, the U12 boys started and beat Berkshire 3-0 to come an excellent 3rd overall. The U10 boys lost their 5th / 6th playoff to Essex to come 6th. The U10 girls played a superb playoff, with Bibiana Krall, Sophie Johnstone and Thomasina Boothman all winning to beat Berkshire 3-0 and come 3rd overall. The U12 girls finished very strongly with Daisy Whooley and Florence winning their matches to give Cambs a deserved 5th place overall.

All the final positions are then totalled up between the 10 counties and Cambridgeshire came joint 2nd with Essex, with Hertfordshire the winners! The last time we won the 2nd place trophy was 30 years ago, so a great achievement by all the teams.

Girls and Boys Mini Red Teams do the County Proud - Inter County Red 17th March 2019

Cambridgeshire girls and boys 8 and under mini red teams fought so hard on Sunday 17th March in the Inter County Red Team event at Hills Road and finished a magnificent third overall behind Hertfordshire and Essex.

The intercounty event has been running for a number of years now and has 10 Counties participating – Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

The counties are divided into two groups of 5 and play each of the other counties and then the winner and runner up progress through to the semi-finals and the other counties play off for positions. Each team consists of 6 girls and 6 boys. They play in an order of 1 to 6 and play their opposite number from each of the other Counties.

The girls played in the morning and boys in the afternoon and combined scores decide the overall positions.

The girl's team of Olivia Kaser, May Havard, Jessica Sackey, Navya Bhasin, Lilyane Mason and Aditi Sharma started off against Bedfordshire and drew this match 3 all with wins for May, Jessica and Lilyane. They then had a really tough match with Essex and despite two very close matches for Oliva and Lilyane overall, they lost 0/6. In the next match they beat Bucks 6/0 with everyone winning and in the final group match they beat Berkshire 5/1. This meant they were through to the semi-finals having won more rubbers than Bedfordshire. In the semi-finals the girls fought really hard and there were some close matches but only Navya won 10/9. This then meant Cambs were in a play-off for the bronze medal with Suffolk. Aditi lost at number 6, then Lilyane won 10/5 at number five. Next up were Navya at number 4

and she won 10/7 and this was followed by Jessica winning 10/8 at number three. May lost narrowly at number two and then Olivia finished the day with a 10/7 win to give Cambs a third place overall. Overall the team fought really hard for every point and all contributed towards the team success.

At the end of this event there was a slight panic as the boy's number one Lucas Parkins pulled out with illness and the team captains had to hastily find the reserve and thankfully Arthur Gordon stepped in. This changed the team dynamics and order then. The team of George Hansgate, Arthur Gordon, Joseph Faupel, Etienne Lamb, Kevin Ke and Martin Xu competed exceptionally well all afternoon. The boys started off against a tough Essex team and had wins from Etienne Lamb and Martin Xu but the top three of George, Arthur and Joseph only lost 10/9, 10/8 and 10/9 respectively but overall Cambs lost 2/4. Next up were Bucks who had already won two matches. This again was a close affair with wins from Etienne Lamb, Martin Xu and Joseph Faupel and the match ended tied at 3 all. Cambs then played Northants and won 5/1 with the only lose a 9/10 at number one!

In the final match Cambs needed to beat Oxfordshire and all the team performed really well to win 6/0. This meant Cambs were through to the semi-finals where they played Herts. The match was closely contested and again the youngest two players Etienne Lamb and Martin Xu both won but despite some great rallies the other four just lost. In the third and fourth playoff against Beds Cambs were very unlucky as all the matches were close but only Etienne and Joseph managed to pull off wins.

This meant Cambs finished fourth overall but with the girls finish off third overall the teams came third – great effort.

The captains Paul Hope and Sue Rich were really proud of the team for both their efforts and sportsmanship over the whole day and they all gave everything for the County and will hopefully play for Cambridgeshire for many years to come.

Corby 12 Counties 2019/2020

We are in a group with Bedfordshire, Herefordshire and Worcester and Nottinghamshire.

To date we have played:

16 and under In Oct and both boys and girls won their matches.

10 and under on 16th Nov and both teams came first.

12 and under on 1st Dec and both teams came first.

18 and under on 2nd Feb and both teams came first.

We have the 14 and under event left and they play on 21st March and we are looking good to win the group and go back to the top group.

Festival of Tennis 25th to 30th August 2019

Another really good week with 250 players entered in the various events and 706 matches played – thanks to Tim again for all his refereeing and help and to the

Cambridge Club for hosting the event. It was a really tricky event to manage with restricted courts in the mornings.

We had 14 red teams – 52 children in the 8 and under event: 8 teams in the orange 9 and under event and 13 teams in the 12/14 team event. Pride of place goes to the Cambridge Club who dominated the team events winning Tier 1 and 2 orange: Tier 1 red and 14 and under. LK won Tier 2 red team event.

<u>Event</u>	<u>Winner</u>
Men's Open	Yujiro Onuma
Ladies Open	Megan Carmichael
18 Boys	Yujiro Onuma
18 Girls	Megan Carmichael
16 Boys	Christof Schaertlin Coffey
16 Girls	Megan Carmichael
14 Boys	Christof Schaertlin Coffey
14 Girls	Marennah Prempeh
12 Boys	Herbie Morris
12 Girls	Marennah Prempeh
10 Boys	Leo Runciman
10 Girls	Sophie Johnstone
9 Boy	Harry Voss
9 Girls	Olivia Kaser
8 Boys	Ishaan Bansaal

Full details on LTA web site.

Thanks to all the clubs and players for making the event so enjoyable.

County Mini Red Tournament 5th January 2020

We had 32 boys and 18 girls involved in the County Red tournament on 5th January – this involved virtually everyone who has attended County Mini Training.

Thanks to Paul Hope for his help plus all the volunteer adult umpires.

Etienne Lamb won the boys event and Aditi Sharma the girl's event.

Orange Festival Corby 1st February 2020

A team of 2 boys and 2 girls competed in the Orange festival at Corby on 1st February 2020. Tiberius Bernard, Etienne Lamb, Olivia Kaser and Navya Bhasin

beat Leicestershire 4/0; beat Notts 4/0 and lost to Herts 1/3 but reached the semi-finals where they beat Essex 3/1 and then played Herts in the final again but were beaten 4/0 despite some very good performances.

Road to Wimbledon

Cambridgeshire was represented by Ryan Parkins and Florence Pritchard Gordon at Wimbledon and both had a fantastic experience. They won the County Finals in July and played at Wimbledon in August.

County Matches

We played Norfolk on 27th Oct at 9 and 10 and under and won both matches comfortably but provided some good experience for the players.

We played Suffolk on 4th January at 8 and 9 and under and again won all the matches. We had a team of 6 boys and 6 girls at red and 8 boys and 8 girls at orange. Red girls won 26 matches to 10. Red boys won 35 matches to 1. Orange girls won 29 matches to 11 and orange boys 22 matches to 18.

It was great to get Judy Horn involved in the Norfolk match and Michael King in the Suffolk match.

Other Tournaments

Cambridgeshire was able to host **two grade 3** events both held at the Cambridge Club – one at Easter and one in July. Both were well attended – the Summer Open had 309 players and 420 entries with 600 matches played and thanks to the Cambridge Club and Tim Arthur in particular for hosting these. It is so good that a Club of that size is prepared to host such events.

ATA Cambridge (Hills Road)

County training has been taking place at Hills Road with sessions for 18 and under on Thursday nights; 14 and under on Tuesday nights; 12 and under on Wednesdays; 9 and 10 and under on Friday nights. County Minis train most Sundays. This has been very well received and continues to be very successful.

A new post has been created and advertised for a Junior Performance and County Programme Manager at Hills Road to link with Cambridgeshire LTA to start September 2020.

One can only hope this is successful and builds on the good work already done there.

Overall and summary

Overall the juniors have had a successful year and when all our top players have turned out the County can compete well with the top Counties. Special praise to our top players Tom Hands, Harry Wendelken, Megan Carmichael and Yujiro Onuma for their achievements over the year and look out for rising stars Herbie Morris who won the Grade 2 10 and under event Jonny Cross, Isabelle Havard, and our emerging 11 and under players.

My thanks to all the players, parents and coaches and referees who have helped the County over the past year and any new volunteers would be appreciated!

Reports 2020



CAMBRIDGESHIRE TENNIS

Thanks to the Performance Committee for their help and good luck to Cambridgeshire Tennis in the future.

24/2/2020

Cambs LTA participation committee (including the Cambs Fund and T4C)

In conjunction with the Cambs Fund, the Committee's objectives include the following county plan objectives:

In conjunction with the Cambs Fund and T4C, the Committee objectives are the following:

- Identify and support clubs that can make full use of improved facilities
- Identify and support clubs that can demonstrate ability to develop participation
- Help clubs improve their facilities and offerings for disability tennis
- Aim to attract more mini tennis players and improve the club offerings for mini tennis – (replaced the over 40s target)
- Develop a strategy to engage more women & young persons in tennis

'Revenue' projects are supported by sponsorship revenues and are funding via Tennis4Cambridgeshire (T4C). During the past year, we have supported the following revenue projects throughout the county:

Steve Goswell – 10% success fees and fees for providing reports for a variety of clubs for their funding needs

Cocks and Hens – equipment for junior/mini programmes

Peterborough/inspire to coach – schools project

Visually impaired tennis

Cambridge Tennis Academy – for temporary lines at Chesterton

Power to inspire – for festival of inclusive tennis support

Dynamic tennis – two projects at sites across Peterborough public courts for junior tennis and mini tennis

Cottenham – ball machine (cost shared 50/50)

Papworth – disability tennis support

Cambridge Tennis Academy – outreach for schools

Peterborough – outreach for schools

Cambourne – outreach for primary schools

We have spent small capital grants as follows:

Duxford £5k - resurfacing

Ely £5k – floodlighting

My thanks go to Paul Ashley, Steve Shaw, Rob Ellis, Bill Skead, Tim Arthur and Alan Dignam, for their assistance and support for the last year, and we welcome Rachel Peacock who will join us henceforth. Please contact any of us if you have a project you would like help with.

The Cambs Fund

The Cambs fund was set up in 2016, using 50% funding from Central LTA, and 50% funding from Cambs LTA. The fund total is £200,000 and the fund has now closed for applications.

The fund has supported/committed to support the following projects in the last year:

Wisbech – conversion to hard courts plus floodlights

CAMBS COUNTY SENIORS TENNIS 2019 - Tisha Hug, CSO, 07890-731593
th10014@cam.ac.uk Dec 19

2019 has been an amazing season and hearty congratulations to all our Cambs Seniors county players, with 5 promotions in the Seniors leagues and many individual successes – please check the full **Cambs LTA** reports in <http://www.cambslta.org.uk/news> (click on Months for separate successes). We now have **13 Summer 35s-75s** and **4 Winter Seniors County Teams**. Congratulations to our **40s Ladies** team who won for the 3rd successive time, **The Corby Indoor Winter Midlands Counties League**. The Summer **45s Men's won Div1B again** (sadly lost to Surrey in the **Grand Finale**), **Men's 50s** promoted to **2B**, **Ladies 50s** promoted to **Div 2A**, **Ladies 60s** promoted to **Div 1B** and **Men's 60s** promoted to **Div 2B**.

Any interested players reaching any of these age groups, please contact **Tisha** or individual Captains (below). Please visit the Seniors Inter-County summer league site for all **2019** results (click Men/Women, Age group, Division, other tabs for matches)

<https://lta.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/league?id=F439E9B7-C7E1-4F9A-A4E9-E66B4074E358>

See all the LTA Seniors National Competitions on <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/competing/seniors-tennis/>

Teresa Catlin was selected to play for **GB 50s Ladies Team**, in the **Seniors World Team Championships**, Portugal, in August winning Group E but lost to USA in final stages, then in **Seniors World Individual Championships** she won **2 Golds** (1st British lady to gain this honour) in **50s Ladies singles & 50s doubles** with Siobhan Nicholson and narrowly lost **50s mixed** with **Pieter Van Houten**. **Pieter** played for **The Netherlands 50s Team**, coming **5th** and reached semis **50s Men's singles & doubles**. **Jenny Chin** reached 3rd round **60s ladies singles** and played in **60s doubles & mixed**, **Alan Jordan** played in Men's **55s** and **Dan Ahl** (ex CPO) **Captained the Men's 50s GB Team**.

David Mills was selected to **Captain** and play for **England's 50s Men's team** at the **4 Nations Championships** in Dublin and successfully guided them to winning the **4 Nations 50s group** in May.

Andrew Moraghan won **45s singles** alongside **Pat Forster** R/U **60s Ladies singles & doubles** with **Sue Mitchell** at ITF Gosling Seniors Indoor Championships. **Andrew** also won the **45s singles** at The Leicester Clay Championships, R/U in the **Open Singles** at the Midlands County Champs and R/U **45s singles** at Frinton and got a 100% record winning 10 out of 10 matches he played for the **45s Men's Cambs Inter County league**.

Teresa Catlin also won the **50s ladies singles & doubles**, at The British Open Seniors Indoor Tennis Championships at Tipton, alongside **Pieter Van Houten** who won **50s singles** and **Pat Forster & Sue Mitchell** reached the semis of **60s doubles**. **David Mills** reached the semis of **50s singles** and with Nick Boys, reached the semis of **45s doubles**. **David** was also R/U **50s men's singles** at Tunbridge Wells Open, reached semis Men's **50s singles**, won **50s doubles** with Nick Boys at British Closed Seniors Championships, Wimbledon, and reached **50s singles semis** at Open Seniors Grass Championships, Eastbourne. **Simon Elliot** won **55s doubles** and reached semis **55s singles** at Tunbridge Wells Open Seniors, was R/U in **55s singles** and won **55s doubles** at Hunstanton.

Tim Poutain-Holes won **35s singles** at ITF Seniors Halton, then was R/U in the **35s singles** and won the **35s doubles** at ITF Frosts Seniors, Gerrards Cross. **Scott Martin** was R/U **45s singles & doubles** to **James Yates**, R/U Open Mixed, at Framlingham, reached semis **50s singles & 45s doubles** with **Alan Jordan** at British Seniors Open Grass Champs, Eastbourne. **Jenny Chin** was R/U **60s doubles** at Bournemouth, won **55s doubles** at Frinton and reached the semis of **60s singles** and R/U **55s doubles** at the Open Seniors Grass Championships, Eastbourne.

Jim Hunter (65s Capt) reached semis **65s** singles, with **Bob Harrower (70s Capt)** won Cromer, Norfolk Open **65s** men's doubles, **Karen Goodman** won **40s** ladies doubles and **Trish & Alice** reached the semis. **Jim** also won the **65s** singles at Yorks Open Seniors alongside **Mark Sanders (60s Captain)** R/U **60s** singles. **Bob** also R/U in **70s** doubles against **Mark Cox** at British Seniors Closed Grass Championships, Wimbledon. **Gee Farnsworth** won **40s** ladies singles, at Hunstanton (the largest tournament in the country), **Alan Jordan & Shay Ginat** were R/U **45s** doubles and **Shay** won the **45s** mixed.

SENIORS' COMPETITIONS AND INFORMATION

The Inter-Club Cambs Mixed Veteran League (40s plus) (1 men's doubles, 1 ladies and 2 mixed doubles) commence in February. Contact your club Captains or Secretaries. Our 50s Men's team won again this year.

The National Inter-Club Championships- Ladies/Men/Mixed 40/45s, 50/55s, 60s, 65s & joint ages mix 105 years

These are knockout cups start in April with Cambs League clubs playing any club in GB. **Deadline 16 Dec 2019**

Contact your clubs to enter teams direct. <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/competing/seniors-tennis/>

Coaching Grants to encourage 35s + to play – designed to encourage more adults over 35 years to take up tennis through allocating grants up to £300 for the club or facility to help develop these programmes. Instructions, see <https://www.lta.org.uk/play-compete/competing/seniors-tennis/about-seniors-tennis/?open=participation+fund>

Ladies & Mens Trials/practices 2020 - please contact the below captains for venue/dates, details usually at Hills Road TC, Purbeck Rd, Cambridge, David Lloyd Centre or Huntingdon TC.

SUPER SENIORS (60+) league (summer daytime matches) - **Congratulations** to winners **Men's Div1 Risbegate**, **Div 2 Royston**, and **Ladies Div1 Histon** and **Mixed Div1 Histon**, **Div 2 Newmarket**. We had a lot more entries this year, although hampered by rain and lots of rearrangements, they were thoroughly enjoyed. Please contact your clubs or email philday@lineone.net to enter for 2020. You can borrow players from another club that are not entered in your group.

2019 WINTER MIDLAND Counties League (at Corby Indoor TC) (Oct-March, Sat/Suns, 3 hours, 2 pairs)

40 Ladies - **Christine Sprowell** (07721-013321) [cdsprowell@icloud.com](mailto:cDSProwell@icloud.com) **Won league for 3rd year well done**

Team: *Fleur Clegg, Kat Deudney, R Hill, Katie Jarvis, Christine Sprowell, Caroline Thornton*

50 Ladies - **Sara Matta** (07711-417473) sara.matta@icloud.com (players below) - **Mid-table**

60 Ladies- **Sue Mitchell** (01763-837170, 07818-032240) mitchellgreenhill@btinternet.com - **Very close 2nd**

55 Mens - **Ashley Martin** (01733- 370010, 07801-434338) ashley.martin32@btopenworld.com - **Mid-table**

2019 MENS & LADIES 35s @ Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, in mid August (3 day weekend)

35 Men - **David Mills** (07748-140598) david.mills@mills-reeve.com **Div4A, narrowly missed promotion** (2sgls/3 dbls) **Team:** *A Blackman, C Little, S Martin, D Mills, T Poutain-Holes, P Van Houten,*

35 Ladies- **Katie Jarvis** KJarvis@ivc.tmet.org.uk (07921-258546) **Div 3B, 3rd** (2 sgl/3 dbls).

Team: *A Barnes, K Deudney, H Hansgate, R Hill, C Sprowell*

2019 SUMMER NATIONAL INTER-COUNTY LEAGUES - April-September

45 Men—David Mills (07748-140598) david.mills@mills-reeve.com **Div 1B WINNERS**

(2sgls/3dbls).

Team: D Mills, S Ginat, A Jordan, S Martin, A Moraghan, P Van Houten

50 Men - Ian Haigs (01480-533576, 07527-943028) ianhaigs@me.com **Div 3, Promoted to 2B**

(2sgls/3dbls)

Team: P Collins, A Dignam, S Ginat, S Grainger R Hill, B Skead, A Stanley

55 Men (2020) - Simon Elliot (01223-360213, 07720-068230) simon@cameva.com **Div 2A, 6th**

(2sgls/3dbls)

Team: A Martin (Capt), J Attfield, N Balon, C Cope, S Elliot, L Hamadashe, G Lowther, A Rice

60 Men (2020) - Ashley Martin (01733-370010, 07801-434338)

Ashley.martin32@btopenworld.com **Div 3A Promoted to 2B** (2sgls/3dbls) **Team:** M Sanders

(Capt), M Dakin, P Eaves, L Hamadashe, J Hunter, P Jeffery, P Jenson, T Mastroddi

65 Men - Jim Hunter(01487-710799, 07752-141546) j.hunter2011@btinternet.com **Div 3A**

5th(4dbls)

Team: M Dakin, P Eaves, T Griffin, R Harrower, J Hunter

70 Men ?75s 2021 - Bob Harrower (01223-276919, 07816-975129) bobharrower3@gmail.com **Div**

2B Withdrew

40 Ladies - Kat Deudney(01223-704317, 07776-017609) katdeudney@hotmail.com **Div 2B 3rd**

(2sgls/3dbls)

Team: F Clegg, K Deudney, H Hansgate, R Hill, K Jarvis, C Sprowell, C Thornton

50s Ladies - Trish Esplin (01763-838009, 07770-966216) trisha1957@btinternet.com **Div 3A**

Promoted 2A (2sgls/3 dbls) **Team:** L Birch, D Bowes, G Farnsworth, T Esplin, S Matta, A

Thomson

60 Ladies- Sue Mitchell, (01763-837170, 07818-032240) mitchellgreenhill@btinternet.com **Div 2B**

Promoted Div 1 (2sgls/3dbls) **Team:** A Clarke, M Chambers, J Chin, P Forster, S Mitchell, Y

Mughal

65 Ladies - M-A Rodolakis (01638-507815, 07557-870346) marodolakis@gmail.com **Div 3 6th**(4

dbls)

Team: M Chambers, S Coppendale, E Greenfield, S Harris, C Nickson, M-A Rodolakis,

S Westmoreland,

70 Ladies (2020) – Eve Greenfield (07971-650371) egreenfield63@gmail.com **Div 2B, 4th** (4dbls)

Team: A Clarke, T Hug (Capt), A McNaught, S Morton, P Saich, P Taylor

75s Ladies (new team 2020) - Tisha Hug (01223-843142, 07890-731593) th10014@cam.ac.uk

(4dbls)

Men's Senior County Team Report – by Chris Little

First day of the Winter County Cup, first up was the Channel Islands – never one to take any county lightly the team however, put on a ruthless clinical display and were convincing winners 9-0. Everyone showed unconditional effort and support, special mention should go to Zachary Cox who is a Men's County debutant and put on a sterling performance to get a win as part of the number 1 doubles pairing with Nick Ghaznavi.

Second day, we knew we were in for sterner tests against Devon. Gritty battling performance from Chad Richard with many growling and sapping exchanges saw him tough out an impressive win, again the momentum firmly in our favour resulted in another 9-0 victory. I would like to make a special note that neither Matt nor myself have been involved in one 9-0 County victory let alone two back to back.

Third day, with promotion on the line, our adversaries were an old foe of Oxfordshire. Chris Little had a two- and half-hour battling match and came out victorious. Chad having already convincingly seen off his opponent led the way for us to professionally move to 5 victories meaning that promotion was emphatically secured.

The team consisted of myself, Chris Little – Captain, Matt Taylor, Nick Ghaznavi, Tom Hands, Yujiro Onuma, Chad Richards, CJ Kindred and Zachary Cox. I am proud of everyone's efforts and hope for similar application and results in Division 4 next year.

Ladies' Senior County Team Report – by Chris Little

Ladies Winter County Cup 2019 - Cambridgeshire Ladies were in Division 3 this winter, held at Hills Road Tennis Centre, so we were hopeful of the home advantage. However, going into the weekend we were under no illusions how tough it would be; we were in a group with Cheshire, Buckinghamshire and Derbyshire. All counties much bigger than ourselves with a rich tennis history. But we had a full capacity team meaning we could rest people if injuries started to creep in. The first day saw us play Cheshire, it was a hard fought day that felt like everything was in the balance several times over, we had epic 3 set matches in every single round. Unfortunately, our 3rd set conversion needed some work as we lost all 5 of those 3 setters & that was the difference between a win and a loss. 7-2 we went down to Cheshire.

Day 2 and we would face Buckinghamshire who were triumphant on their first day against Derby, and so keenly looking for to boost their promotion hopes for the last day. However, we put up one hell of a fight, again we had 4 matches go to 3 sets again, this time we did manage to win one of them, but still that was not good enough. 5-4 Buckinghamshire was our final score and we would go into the last day battling to prevent relegation, which somehow seemed so unjust given everything had been so close thus far.

Alas, the last day arrived, all a little sore, we rallied today and our families too for extra support, alongside some of the Cambridgeshire committee execs too. Our first two rubbers, the nerves were already prevalent, both being extremely close, we eventually prevailed with rubber 5 where Chaaya boosted our 3 set ratio, Tash narrowly missed out at number 6 with a strong second set performance from her opponent.

We then struggled through the rest of the singles, with another 2 third set loses and a straights set loss, rubber 4 was the only other singles win which was Laura who after a very close tiebreak first set ran away with the second set to come through it quickly.

So, we were left in the position of being 4-2 down after the singles and needing to win all 3 doubles rubbers to stay in our group. It was a big ask, but we had everything to give. It started in the best fashion possible with Neha & Tash producing the doubles performance of the weekend and winning the 3rd pair doubles in style. Then both 2nd and 1st doubles again went to 3 sets, maybe you've seen a pattern here, nerves on the supporting sidelines were just given our 3rd set history throughout the weekend! But these are the moments that we play the game for, that we compete for and that we train week in, week out for. 2nd pair consisting of Megan & Laura eventually came through in an exciting tiebreak to keep the hopes alive. It was then down to Sophie and Annie at pair 1 to do the same. They had an incredible start to the tiebreak going 8-0 up, however Derby launched their retaliation, but we held our nerve and eventually closed it out. We had pulled off the comeback, secured our position in group 3 for another year & broken the curse of the third set.