

DEAR JUNIOR TENNIS ORGANISER WELCOME TO THE 2014 HSBC ROAD TO WIMBLEDON 14 & UNDER CHALLENGE.

THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO ORGANISE YOUR HSBC ROAD TO WIMBLEDON 14 & UNDER CHALLENGE AT YOUR CLUB, PARK, OR SCHOOL.

This Organisers' Pack is sent to you as you have entered via your County to stage a HSBC Road to Wimbledon event and enclosed you will find a step by step guide aon how to organise your own junior event for boys and/or girls.

For the first time in 2014, since the event began in 2002, we are separating out the players' standards based on their ratings on 1 April 2014.

This means that only players in a rating division of 10.2 to 7.1 will be allowed to play in their Road to Wimbledon event within their club, park or school. The players on 1 April with a rating of 6.2 and above will be able to enter a separate Regional to National Road to Wimbledon event starting in July 2014.

Planning the staging of your event at Stage 1 is vital. The deadline for you to complete your tournament is the end of May so you need to organize your local event during April and May.

After your Stage 1 event has taken place, your club, park or school will automatically be represented in Stage 2, which is a Grade 4, County Finals competition consisting of at least the winner and possibly runner up from your event (County decision on the number of players who qualify for the County Finals).

Stage 3, the National Finals, is a Grade 3 event, which will be held on the Wimbledon grass courts of the All England Club 11-16 August 2014.

You will find the following information within the organisers' pack:

- 1. The key benefits of entering The HSBC Road to Wimbledon
- 2. Guidelines & regulations for staging your tournament
- 3. Best practice for organising your tournament:

Please do not hesitate to contact your County Organiser, whose name and contact details are in this booklet if any assistance is required.

Thank you again for supporting your juniors.

# Paul Hutchins

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# THE KEY BENEFITS OF ENTERING THE HSBC ROAD TO WIMBI FDON

- Invitation to invite the Club organiser and a friend to attend the National Finals of the Road to Wimbledon during the week of 11-16 August 2014
- Each club, park or school will receive a Road to Wimbledon poster featuring Tim Henman to put on the club notice board.
- Each club, school, park boy and girl winner (and in some counties up to 4 players) will automatically qualify for the County Finals.
- Each player participating in the County Finals of the 2014 Road to Wimbledon will receive a Road to Wimbledon Certificate and HSBC gift.
- Each County winner (x 44 boys and 44 girls) will qualify for the National Finals where the player will receive a daily accommodation allowance, free lunch, free access to the Wimbledon Museum, tour of the grounds, Wimbledon players pack to include Wimbledon merchandise and an invitation to the Players' party.
- By staging a Road to Wimbledon event your club or school is showing how keen you are to provide competitive opportunities for your junior players.
- It is a good incentive for juniors to compete socially and competitively in a nationwide event in (over 600 venues participated in 2013)
- Players participating in the 2014 Road to Wimbledon may attend the National Finals as spectators during the National Finals 11-16 August 2014.

# GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS FOR STAGING YOUR BOYS' AND/OR GIRLS' CLOSED TOURNAMENT

#### **Draw Format**

- Each club or school to stage a singles event (knock out or round robin) of no fewer than a 5-player draw to find a winning boy and/ or girl who will represent his/her club or school in the County Finals. (Each County has the discretion to invite more than just the winner to the County Finals). Ideally staged on a set date(s) with a social and competitive element to the day.
- The type of draw used will depend on the number of players competing and time available to complete the event and each organiser should decide the best format for his/her event.
- A round robin format is recommended for a small number of players. If a large draw is anticipated then a staggered, knockout with consolation or compass draw should be considered.
   www.LTA.org.uk/volunteers-officials

#### Scoring format

Matches will count for players' ratings provided the following scoring formats are used (and players have active British Tennis Membership and ratings)

- 1. Best of 3 sets with a tiebreak at 4-4 or 6-6 in each set
- 2. Two tiebreak sets at 4-4 or 6-6 and a Match Tiebreak in the third set
- 3. One full set only if all players are rated 10.2 to 9.1  $\,$

# Age group

 A player is eligible to compete if he/she is 14 years old on or before 31 August 2014. Please note age group rules and for further details on competition age groups please visit: www.lta.org.uk/competitionagegroups

### Eligibility

- The event is open to boys and girls aged 14 or younger on 31 August 2014. (Players cannot reach the age of 15 before 31 August 2014).
- Players only rated 10.2 to 7.1 on 1st April 2014 are eligible.
- Players must be members of registered clubs or schools by the start of the first round of the competition and remain so during the event while still actively participating. The event organisers may ask for written evidence of club membership.
- No player may represent more than one club or school in the competition, i.e. a choice has to be made as to whether to play at a club or school, but not both.
- Two or three clubs may join together, with permission given by the County Organiser, to stage their draw.
- Any player who has competed at the National Finals at Wimbledon on two previous occasions is not eligible to enter in order to give opportunities to more players. (This rule was suspended for one year as were unable to play at Wimbledon in 2012 due to the Olympic Games) In 2014 if a player has qualified on two occasions to play at Wimbledon he/she is not eligible to enter. If a player reached the National Finals once at Wimbledon and once in 2012 at the Bank of England sports ground he/she is eligible to play.

# British Tennis Membership and Ratings

British Tennis Membership is free to all players of LTA registered clubs or £5 to players aged 9-17 years who are not members of a registered club.

All entries at club/park must have a player rating to be part of the Challenge unless they are playing in a Stage 1 school event where ratings are not mandatory. If a player currently does not have a rating, he/she can join the action by signing up to

British Tennis Membership includes a rating, entry into a Wimbledon tickets ballot, monthly e-newsletter and access to the member's only area of the LTA website, ticket discounts to events and a membership loyalty Team card.

To become a British Tennis Member log onto: www.org.uk/britishtennismembership or call the British Tennis Services Team on: 0208 487 7000

# Result Loading

For the majority of clubs and parks stage 1 will be LTA Grade 7 tournaments which count for ratings and you MUST process the results for your player to reach the county finals.

We suggest you use the new user friendly Results Manager software for your player to reach the county finals. http://www.lta.org.uk/volunteers-officials/Results-Manager/.

If you are a TTP user your tournament can be processed using this software and can be a LTA Grade 5 tournament.

All results must be loaded and the winning boy and girl must be notified to your County Organiser by 31 May 2014 at the very latest.

# **Timings**

- The closed singles event for boys and/or girls must be completed by 31 May 2014 and matches should be planned to take place during April and May period.
- Those qualifying will compete in the County Finals on set weekend dates during the period June to July. The County will announce the set County Final date in advance.
- 44 County Finals' winners plus 4 wild cards to compete at the National Finals at the All England Club Wimbledon from 11-16 August 2014.

# **Entry Fee**

It is optional for clubs/parks to charge a fee but a maximum of £5.00 is recommended if you decide to charge an entry fee to cover the cost of balls and administration. Final decision to be made by the venue organiser.

# Organisation and Sanction

The overall organisation of the event shall be carried out by the Tournament Director under a joint committee of the Road To Wimbledon event of The All England Lawn Tennis Club and the LTA. The club/park closed stage will be the responsibility of the club/park concerned with direction from the County Organiser.

# Complaints and Disputes

Any complaint or dispute at the Club/park or County stages shall be made in writing to the County Organiser within 48 hours of the cause of the complaint. The Tournament Director and the Committee shall have the power to consider any matter coming to their attention after the 48-hour period.

# Rules and Regulations

All matches shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of tennis, the rules and the LTA Competition Regulations.



# BEST PRACTICE FOR ORGANISING YOUR STAGE 1 TOURNAMENT:

#### **BEFORE**

- The club, park or school to appoint one person e.g. Junior Organiser, Club Coach or Club Secretary, local referee to co-ordinate the singles event.
- It is really important that all your juniors in the age group are told of the opportunity to play whatever their standard. Start to communicate to your juniors via newsletters, social media or information on notice board giving details of the tournament and method of entry. Please link closely with your coach at all stages. You may wish to use the A3 entry sheet enclosed by placing it on the notice board. Remember to write in a deadline date for entry.
- Once your entry deadline is closed the draw will need to be made and published on the notice board and the players informed. Ideally we recommend a one or two day event staged with all players playing on same day(s) to create a social and competitive atmosphere or players can arrange their matches in their own time by a play by date

# DURING

- · Priority to make it social, friendly and competitive
- To play boys and/or girls on same day(s)
- To advertise a set day(s) or weekend(s) appreciating that not all will be available
- Encourage all players to meet for half hour practice time before start of play
- · Coffee and drinks for players and families
- Referee/organiser to meet all players to explain format
- Pre select a good draw format that will mean quick and several matches for all players
- Each player to receive a Road to Wimbledon certificate available from your county organiser
- Club to have organised additional prizes for players
- You may wish to promote a Semi-Final and Final which will be good for the juniors and raise the profile of the event

The emphasis has to be on 'what makes a good event from a junior perspective?

This has to mean a well-planned social but competitive event with good inter action between members and juniors with a structured draw and matches.





I absolutely loved playing in the HSBC Road to Wimbledon 2013. The national finals were the highlight of my summer. It was amazing playing on the grass courts at Wimbledon.

Sophie Drakeford Lewis Winner, Girls' Singles —— // ——





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