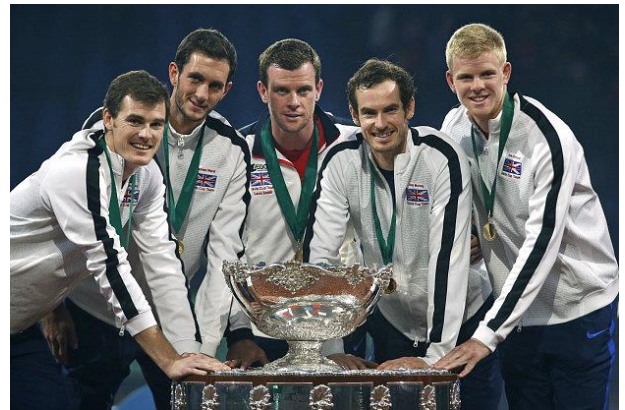


Devon LTA Chairman's Report 2015

What a fantastic year for British tennis with our GB Team of Leon Smith (Capt.), Andy Murray, James Ward, Kyle Edmunds, and Jamie Murray winning the Davis Cup for the first time in 79 years. We are now ITF World Ranked #1 Country and are the third most successful team in the history of the Davis Cup winning it 10 times and runners-up 8 times (USA W-32 RU-29, Australia W-28 RU-19)



This was rounded off with the team winning the BBC Team of the Year Award, and Andy Murray winning the Sports Personality of the Year Award for the second time.



**CONGRATULATIONS
Andy Murray and the GB TEAM**

2015 was my last year as County Chairman so I hope you will forgive my indulgence in starting my final report with a tribute to our Davis Cup Team. We must all embrace this victory and capitalise on the increased public interest to grow our great sport. At the time of writing this report the LTA are about to announce their plans to use the Davis Cup win to promote tennis across the whole country. These plans will include the trophy visiting all the counties and each county must take hold of this opportunity and utilise it to raise the profile of the sport and get more people, young and old, playing tennis.

I have been greatly honoured to have been County Chairman for the last 5 years and over my period in office I have thoroughly enjoyed myself; meeting many hard working volunteers, watching some great tennis and being proud of some great performances from many of our County players both young and old.

Also over my time in office I have enjoyed great support from the Devon LTA Management Team and the Devon LTA Council for which I have been truly grateful, however I must thank one person above all else for all her outstanding hard work, support, friendship and for being the bedrock of Devon Tennis for the last 15 years – Chris Bawden our County Tennis Co-ordinator. As you will all know Chris took over her new role in 2014 following the LTA re-organisation, and she has continued her excellent work supporting tennis in Devon.

Like many an outgoing chairperson I have many regrets; I'm sorry that I could not have given more time to the role and that I did not achieve more for Devon Tennis over my period in office. However I'm very pleased that during that period the County took the decision two years ago to keep and employ Chris whose experience is invaluable to Devon Tennis. Also two initiatives that I do feel proud of were the introduction of the County's Small Loan and Grant scheme for clubs and the introduction of the County Awards to recognise and reward outstanding performance and hard work of players, coaches and volunteers across Devon Tennis.

As Chairman of Devon LTA in 2015 once again I feel incredibly proud of all the achievements associated with Devon Tennis in the past year. From some outstanding junior performances through to some amazing Veterans' play, Devon has been well represented.

We in Devon are very lucky to be blessed with so many volunteers across the County who ensure that the running of our many clubs and competitions carries on successfully. This year this was no mean feat due to some dreadful weather during the summer and autumn period. I must also on a personal note and on behalf of the County go on record to thank our Councillors and in particular the Council Officers i.e. **Andy Malcolm (County Treasurer) Nicola Keele (County Secretary) John Allen (Vice Chair) and David Kirkness (County LTA Councillor)**

Like myself two of these officers are also standing down this year, Nicola Keele and David Kirkness. Nicola has been a very efficient County Secretary who embraced the role shortly after moving into the County not really knowing many of us, which was a very brave thing for her to do and lucky for us.

After a great many years serving Devon Tennis, David Kirkness is standing down as our LTA Councillor. In his early years David was very involved with our juniors and junior development and performance within the County before taking over his current role at the LTA as our representative, where he has not always seen eye to eye with the powers to be but he has done a great job bringing a common-sense and a practical approach to his role representing Devon's interest to the best of his ability. I'm proud and honoured to have been nominated to take over David's role and I hope that I can continue in the same vein as he has. I also hope that David will stay involved with Devon Tennis, as we cannot afford to lose someone of his ability and wealth of knowledge and I'm sure we will find a way of keeping him involved.

Wimbledon Ticket Allocation

In 2014 we enrolled in the LTA's automatic ticket allocation system which has proved to be very successful and made life much easier for those responsible in the allocation of tickets to members within their clubs.

The County discretionary allocation of tickets still needed to be and will continue to need to be distributed manually, so I must thank Penny Pullen and Frankie Peroni for once again organising this part of the Wimbledon ticket allocation.

AGM- Devon County Awards

The Devon LTA AGM & Awards Evening took place at the Buckerell Lodge Hotel, Exeter on Wednesday 28th January 2015 and it was great to celebrate the successes of those players, coaches, clubs and volunteers who contribute so much to Devon tennis. Awards were presented by Devon LTA President Sir Simon Day and recipients were:

10U Player 2014 - Ben Johnson	Junior Player 2014 - Emerson Styles
Senior Player 2014 - Jo Louis	Young Coach 2014 - Tom Vinall
Senior Coach 2014 - Derek Blackmore	Club of 2014 - Victoria Park
Volunteer of 2014 - jointly awarded to Sue Hunter and Maureen Sowerby	

AEGON GB Pro Series Barnstaple Open \$25,000

The Tarka \$25,000 women's AEGON GB Pro Series tournament singles title was won by top seed Kristyna Pliskova (CZH) in impressive style not losing a set throughout the week. She defeated Nina Zander (Ger) 6-3,6-2

The doubles final saw 3rd seeds Stephanie Foretz & Ana Vrljic win their first title together with a 6-2 5-7[10-7] defeat of 4th seeds Naomi Broady & Ekaterina Bychkova.

Singles Semifinal

Kristyna Pliskova (CZE) [1]	7-6 6-2	Andrea Hlavackova(CZE) [7]
Nina Zander (GER)	6-4 7-5	Naomi Broady (GBR) [3]

Final

Kristyna Pliskova (CZE) [1]	6-3 6-2	Nina Zander (GER)
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Doubles Final

Stephanie Foretz (FRA) & Ana Vrljic (CRO) [3]	6-2 5-7 (10-7)	Naomi Broady (GBR) & Ekaterina Bychkova (RUS) [4]
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I must congratulate Chris Gill and all his team at Barnstaple Tarka on staging a very successful event.

County Teams & Competitions

On the competitive front, I always look forward to the e-mails, which tell me of the successes and exploits of our various teams. You can follow all of our teams on the [Devon LTA website](#). I would however encourage anyone to go along and watch our various County teams perform,

particularly when they are playing at home as they would appreciate the support and you would, I am sure, be able to watch some fine tennis.

County Teams

AEGON County Cups

Summer County Cup July 2015

Ladies – 3rd in division 5

Team: Kate Brown, Kendal Brown, Mae Dartnell, Lucy Gill, Maria Goodwin, Emma Hurst, Mia Loye

Men – 3rd in division 5

Team: Dan Ahl, Patrick Daykin, Jack Findel-Hawkins, Andy Higham, Andrew Norton, Howard Scott, Emerson Styles, Steve Wood, Oscar Wynne,

Winter County Cup 2015

Ladies – 4th in group 4B (relegated)

Team: Kate Brown (Capt), Kendal Brown, Lucy Gill, Emma Hurst, Abi Skelley, Emily Staddon, Rachel Williams

Men – 3rd in group 5B

Team: Buzzy Avis, Patrick Daykin, Archie Dudman, Rhys Dunford, Alfie Flatters, Andrew Higham, Lewie Parker, Pierce Widdicombe, Steve Wood, Justin Kraushar (Capt)



18 & Under

Girls – runners up in division 3b

Team: Mae Dartnell, Lucy Gill, Emma Hurst, Amber Lowe, Abi Skelley, Chloe Sluce, Emily Staddon

Boys – relegated to division 4

Team: Buzzy Avis, Patrick Daykin, Archie Dudman, Hugh Ryder, Zac Sheppard, Emerson Styles, Pierce Widdicombe, Erik Wilson

14 & Under

Girls – 4th in group H

Team: Beth Cooper, Josie Culliford, Cara Morton, Teya Sheppard, Saskia Sluce, Emily Syms

Boys – 6th in group G

Team: Robbie Broomhead, Sam Hopper, Kieran Sean Rooney-Heason, Alex Styles, Jack Upsher, Jack Wilkinson

12 & Under (Regional)

Girls – 5th

Team: Olga Diavastis, Jessica Hill, Isobel Rutter, Emily Syms

Boys – 3rd

Team: Harry Burcham, Taylor Ingham-Hill, Tommy Poli, Matthew Rutter

10 & Under (Regional)

Girls – 4th

Team: Margaux Slade, Lucy Ward, Lizzie Warrender

Boys – runners up

Team: Zac Brown, Ben Johnson, Lucas Urquiza, Toby Watts

9 & Under Mixed

3rd in regional group

Team: Jessica Johnson, Evie Norris-Bishop, Victoria Syms, Grace Vowles, Finley Hill, Sebastian Linnitt, Milo Platts, Finn Upsher

Veterans



I would like to thank everyone who represented Devon in our veteran's teams this year.

Over 35s Inter County August 2015

Ladies – won division 2b (promoted to division 1)

Team: Kate Brown, Karen Clark, Kirsty Gray, Jo Louis

Men – 3rd in division 2b

Team: Jamie Bartlett, Linden Hardisty, Ben Knight, Justin Kraushar (Capt)

Inter County Leagues

Ladies

Results for the various age groups are as follows:-

Ladies' 40s Div 1b Captain Jackie Nesbitt
in championship final between 1a & 1b league winners

Finished 1st
lost to Sussex

Ladies' 50 Div 1a	Captain Di Horne	Finished last
Ladies' 60 Div 2a	Captain Nicki Keele	Finished 3 rd
Ladies' 65 Div 2a	Captain Ann Louis	Finished 2 nd
Ladies' 70 Div 2b	Captain Maureen Sowerby	Finished 1 st

Teams promoted: Ladies Over 65 to division 1
Ladies Over 70 to division 1

Ladies Over 40s won group 1b and played winners of group 1a Sussex to decide the overall Division 1 winner. Lost to Sussex in very close final.

Men's

Results for the various age groups are as follows:-

Men 45's Div 1b	Captain Craig Arbuckle	Finished 2 nd
Men's 50 Div 1a	Captain Jim McIntosh	Finished 4 th
Men's 55 Div 2a	Captain Alistair Forbes	Finished 2 nd
Men's 60 Div 2b	Captain Phil Plummer	Finished 3 rd
Men's 65 Div 1a	Captain Bernard Mowle	Finished last
Men's 70 Div 2a	Captain Ken Jones	Finished 4 th
Men's 75 Div 1b	Captain David Evans	Finished 3 rd

In the Men's Over 80 Tom Eastop captained Devon's team. Of the four teams in this group only one match was played which was Devon against Middlesex. Played at Exmouth the visitors were the winners.

Another 'Devon' success was that of a team from Exmouth, which has just won the National Inter-Club over 70's title, beating Winchester at Dudley.

Representing GB in the Young Seniors World Team Championships:

Jo Louis – winner Over 45s
Sue Wiltshire – losing semi finalist Over 40s
Kate Brown – 7th Over 35s

British Seniors Closed Grass Court Championships

Jo Louis – winner Over 45s
Kate Brown – winner Over 35s
Jackie Nesbitt – winner Over 50s doubles
Top Eastop – winner Over 80s doubles



Road to Wimbledon

The Road to Wimbledon County Finals were won by Harry Burcham and Olga Diavastis. They went on to represent Devon at the all England Club. Runner up Josie Culliford was fortunate to also be invited as a highly rated runner up.



Senior County Closed:

This took place in May at Torquay and this year had a high level of entrants in the Men's events. It was refereed this year by Bill Ahl in his usual professional manner and ran very smoothly. The usual high standard of tennis was very apparent and last year's winner in the Ladies - Kendal Brown retained her title, despite a great challenge from Abbi Skelley. This meant consecutive title number 8 for Kendal (what a record!). The Men's Singles had a new champion this year in Emerson Styles who defeated the title holder Alfie Flatters. Other winners' included:-

Senior

	Winner	Runner Up
MS	Emerson Styles	Alfie Flatters
WS	Kendal Brown (8th time!)	Abbi Skelley
MD	Patrick Daykin & Steve Wood	Andy Norton & Dave Palmer
WD	Kate Brown & Kendal Brown	Mae Dartnell & Mia Loye
MXD	Kate Brown & Andy Norton	Kendal Brown & Buzzy Avis
35 MS	Peter Elver	Ben Knight
45/40 MXD	Annie Ley & Phil Dimmick	Barbara Robillard & Kevin Mowbray
45 MS	Richard Jackson	Craig Arbuckle
45 MD	Richard Jackson & Ashley Scott	Phil Bastin & John Hillman
50 WS	Sarah Fielder	Linda West
50 WD	Linda Knight & Nikki Rodding	Julie Elliott & Barbara Robillard
55 MS	Keith Johnson	Paul Ley
55 MD	Ian Leonard & Paul Ley	Phil Dimmick & Kevin Mowbray
65 MS	Tony Counter	Phil Bastin

Junior County Closed:

Once again this took place at Ivybridge in August, and was refereed by Bill Ahl who praised the players for their exemplary behaviour during the week.

Plymouth's Patrick Daykin won the 18U singles for the first time after being runner up to Emerson Styles last year whilst Abbi Skelley won the 18U singles title and partnered Kate Absalom to win the 18U doubles. Teya Sheppard won the 14U girls singles and then partnered Linnea Kogel to take the doubles title (both for the second year running). Olga Diavastis won the most improved player trophy and Kate Absalom won the Pat Chadwick Cup for Sportsmanship.

The mini tennis event (also held at Ivybridge) was an action packed day. (See results below)

Junior

	Winner	Runner Up
8U GS	Maya Ichim	Adelaide Hitt
8U BS	Joshua Craze	Max Daniels
9U GS	Jessica Johnson	Victoria Syms
9U BS	Sebastian Linnitt	Finley Hill
10U GS	Margaux Slade	Lucy Ward
10U BS	Zac Brown	Toby Watts
12U GS	Emily Syms	Olga Diavastis
12U BS	Matthew Rutter	Daniel Mountford
14U GS	Teya Sheppard	Jessica Hill
14U BS	Sam Hopper	Matthew Rutter
16U GS	Emily Staddon	Bethany Matthews
16U BS	Pierce Widdecombe	Matyas Metyko
18U GS	Abbi Skelley	Kate Absalom
18U BS	Patrick Daykin	Pierce Widdecombe
14U GD	Linnea Kogel & Teya Sheppard	Jessica Hill & Hazel Vernon

14U BD	Morgan Hill & Matthew Rutter	Alex Styles & Jake Upsher
14U MXD	Not played	
18U GD	Kate Absalom & Abbi Skelley	Bethany Matthews & Emily Staddon
18U BD	Buzzy Avis & Zac Sheppard	Bradley Phillips & Pierce
18U MXD	Emily Staddon & Joel While	Teya Sheppard & Zac Sheppard

**Pat Chadwick Cup for Sportsmanship
Most Improved Player (Toppo Anstey Salver)**

Kate Absalom
Olga Diavastis

The Vernon Weaver:

This was held at Ivybridge in April and was refereed by Marian Vinall. In the ladies event a strong Devonshire team retained their title whilst a youthful Westward Ho! Men's Team won the title for the first time in the club's history.



Flybe Mini Masters

Winter Season Finals March 2015

	<u>Winner</u>
Green 10U	Ben Johnson
Orange 9U	Harry Melville (Cor)
Red 8U	Max Daniels

<u>Runner Up</u>
Lucas Urquiza
Will Stirling (Cor)
Evan Morris

Summer Season Finals August 2015

Green 10U	Chris Denton (Cor)
Orange 9U	Matthew Upton (Cor)
Red 8U	Joshua Craze

Ashley Morris
Noah Clifford (Cor)
Max Daniels

AEGON Team Tennis

Winning Place to Play	Age/Gender	Division
Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre	8&U Mixed	Division 1
David Lloyd Club Exeter	8&U Mixed	Division 2 - Grp
Ipplepen Tennis Club	8&U Mixed	Division 2 - Grp
Exeter Tennis Centre	9&U Mixed	Division 1
Avon Vale Tennis & Croquet Club	9&U Mixed	Division 2
Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre	10&U Mixed	Division 1
South Devon Tennis Centre	10&U Mixed	Division 2
South Devon Tennis Centre	12&U Boys	Division 1
Exeter Golf & Country Club	12&U Boys	Division 2
Exeter Tennis Centre	12&U Girls	Division 2
Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre	14&U Boys	Division 1
Newton Abbot Tennis Club	14&U Boys	Division 2
Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre	14&U Girls	Division 2
Tarka Tennis Centre	16&U Boys	Division 1
Exeter Tennis Centre	16&U Boys	Division 2A
Teignmouth Tennis Club	16&U Boys	Division 2B
Exeter Golf & Country Club	16&U Girls	Division 2
Tarka Tennis Centre	18&U Boys	Division 1
South Devon Tennis Centre	Open Men	Division 1

Team Tennis Schools

Division 1 winners

- Year 8 Boys - **Ivybridge Community College**
- Year 8 Girls - **Trinity School**
- Year 10 Boys - **Torquay Boys Grammar School**
- Year 10 Girls - **West Buckland School**

Obituaries

John Barter

Devon LTA is sad to report the passing of John Barter. John, a former Devon LTA Councillor and Men's Team Captain, contributed hugely to the County in the 1980s and 90s. Having been a Council member for some years, John took over the Men's Team in 1988. At that time Devon languished in the lowly regions of Division 7. John put his energies into building a successful team. The following year, still in Division 7, Devon won and gained promotion. From that year on Devon won each year moving from division 7 to division 1 in consecutive years until in 1995 they became overall champions by winning division 1. Under John's continued guidance they capped their achievement by winning again in 1996. Much is owed to John by Devon LTA and by the players he brought on to full potential during his time as captain.

We send our condolences to John's family.

Trixie Walton (nee Creed)

Trixie was Devon Ladies Captain for 16 years during the 50s and 60s. During these years Devon had a ladies team of great repute, boasting a Wimbledon champion, Angela Mortimer, and the youngest player ever to play for the senior team, Sue Barker. They won the inter county championships, at Budleigh Salterton Lawn Tennis Club, when Trixie finally overcame Ann Jones in the deciding match. She was also captain when Devon won county week at Eastbourne in 1968 and Roger Taylor invited the team to a party in his room!!! Those were the days.

She was also Chairperson of Devon LTA at one time.

Help for Devon clubs

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to remind people that the county can help a number of clubs with small grants and interest free loans, made from the county reserves. For more details please contact your Devon LTA Council Rep, the County Treasurer Andy Malcolm or myself.

It just remains for me to thank everyone within Devon Tennis for all their hard work and support over the last five years and to wish my successor the very best of luck during their term in office and to offer them my support for the future. I'm sure they will enjoy their time in the role just as I have.

David Vinall – Chairman Devon LTA

