

## SPOTLIGHT ON: Ollie – our 14U junior member

Ollie has had a very successful start to the winter tennis season. At the age of 14 he won the Grade 5 South East Winter County Tour 18U Boys Tournament played at Sutton Sports Village.

Ollie was also the runner up in the Weald 16U Grade 4 South East Winter County Tour Tournament. Overcoming the number 2 seed in the first round in a 3rd set tie break decider, he then progressed through two more rounds to make it to the final. He lost in the final with some great tennis from both boys in a game which could have gone either way. Another strong performance from Ollie in what was his best result in a tournament at his home club.

### How did you get into tennis?

I got into tennis mostly because of my Dad. He's always been my biggest fan in everything I do, but perhaps most noticeably in tennis. At first, he got my sister into it and her quick progression made me want to go for it a try myself. So, having moved to England aged 7, I gave it a try. Having had an enjoyable first couple of lessons, I really fell in love. Not only was it fun, but I was making friends and becoming quite competitive in the process, which is key for development at an early stage. From then on, it's been all about focus and effort and without the people always behind me at that early stage I wouldn't be anywhere near as comfortable as I am now.

### What do you find most enjoyable about playing tennis?

I find all of it enjoyable, but I think the people that you meet on the tennis journey are just the top. I have met countless people that I'm very close to now - whether I met them in year 2 or year 10. Many people are going through the same journey as you, so I find it wonderful that although you may be enemies at some point, you'll always be mates.

### What tips can you share with our junior members who are competing or thinking about competing in tennis tournaments?

Go for it! Always have the confidence that you will step onto that court, under any condition, and play your best. In your eyes it may not always be your best



performance but it should always be the best you can do on the day. Also, listen to the people around you. Although it may not seem like it all the time, everyone is trying to help you. Of course, there will be off days, but the best of the best manage to pull through.

### Who's your favourite tennis player and why?

Outside of my quality coach, Bradley Bant, it must be Novak Djokovic. I do not know another tennis player with the stamina, agility and pace which this man performs at. Every time I watch him, I am just puzzled at what he does. He could be out on court for days with no rest and you'd see no drop in performance standard. It would come as no surprise to me if he surpassed the likes of Nadal and Federer as he is just the most consistent.

### What other things do you enjoy doing in your free time?

Outside of tennis I play football and relax with mates.

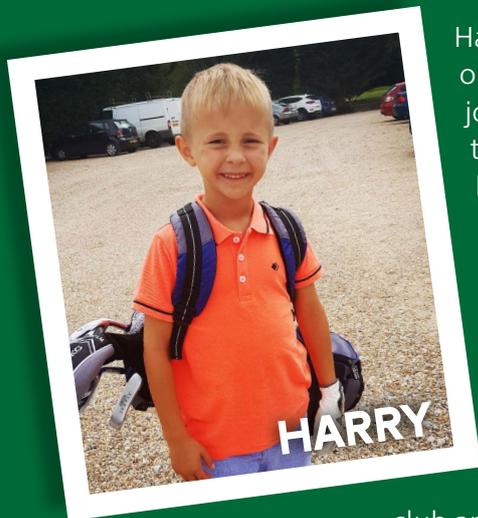
### Tell us one thing about yourself that others may not know about you.

Other than a professional tennis player, I would like to be a lawyer.

## Have you met our new junior members?



Harry started playing tennis at the afterschool club at Hassocks Infant School. He also likes swimming, cricket, table tennis, drawing, eating Nutella, and playing Super Mario with his brother. He loves making people laugh!



Harry is 6 years old and recently joined the Weald to begin tennis lessons with Tom. He enjoys most sports, especially football, golf and cricket. Harry started playing tennis at school at an after-school

club and enjoyed it so much that he wanted to continue and improve and now really looks forward to his lessons on Fridays. He hopes to become more involved with the club and continue improving.

## Junior County Squad

The Weald would like to congratulate our young guns of Finn Morris and Adam Huard for being selected to take part in the Tennis Sussex County Programme. This is a fantastic opportunity and will give them a chance to train with the best players in the county for their age groups. The coaches are excited to see how they get on and aim to get more junior players into these training programmes over the coming years.

## 12U LTA tournament at the Weald

In January our tennis club hosted a tournament for boys 12U. We were really pleased to see three of our Weald players – Adam, Felix and Nate competing in this tournament alongside other boys from surrounding counties.



## Could you share your achievements with us?

We would really like to know about your successes, awards, medals and other achievements outside of the tennis club. If you are happy to share these with us, please email them to us at:

**lucie\_huard2004@yahoo.co.uk**

## THE CLUB WILL BE HOSTING AN EASTER EVENT FOR ALL JUNIOR MEMBERS ON SUNDAY 5TH APRIL FROM 2PM

There will be an Easter egg hunt, a junior tournament run by the coaches and an online family quiz. The entry for this event is £3 and each child will receive a Nestle Easter gift.

# JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2019 Junior Club Championships were hosted by the coaches on the 10th November. We had a well fought round robin event for the U12 category with Louis, Felix, Nate and William. There were some intense and long games that were decided only by a point here and there. The overall winner was decided in the final game of the round robin with Louis vs Felix. Louis was victorious playing some extremely aggressive tennis from the first point. In the U14 category we had Jules, Harry and Josh competing. It was great to see such highly spirited games and all players putting themselves in the spotlight. The winner on the day was Josh with some fantastic shots, especially his forehand.

Thank you to all players who took part. We enjoyed watching you playing. We would love to see more of our juniors of all ages to battle it out for the title this year. The great news is that this year the junior champs will take place alongside the adult ones in the summer.

**The qualifying rounds are scheduled to take place on the 11th and 12th June and the finals on the 25th and 26th July. We have also booked the 6th September as a contingency finals day. Please save these dates in your diaries and speak to one of the coaches if you have any questions.**

Louis 12U winner



Josh 14U winner



The competitors

# CHRISTMAS JUNIOR SPECIAL 2019

The coaches hosted a Christmas themed fun tennis event for all juniors who access the programme. We had various age groups playing ranging from mini red U8 to U16 juniors. Everyone who attended wore Christmas outfits, which was fantastic to see. We were really pleased to see so many juniors taking part in this event and it was a brilliant end to 2019 for the coaching team. We are looking forward to hosting more of these events this year.



## Dates for your diary

### Events at the Weald

<b>Sun 5 April</b>	Easter juniors event
<b>w/c 6 April</b>	Easter camp
<b>12 - 17 April</b>	The Weald Open Grade 3 Tournament (for all age groups)
<b>Sun 19 April</b>	Parent and child tournament
<b>Sat 25 April</b>	14U Girls Grade 4 Tournament
<b>Sun 26 April</b>	11U Girls Grade 4 Tournament
<b>Sat 9 May</b>	12U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sat 16 May</b>	12U Boys & Girls Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 17 May</b>	14U Boys Grade 4 Tournament
<b>23 - 24 May</b>	14U Road to Wimbledon
<b>Sat 6 June</b>	12U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 7 June</b>	12U Girls Grade 5 Tournament
<b>11-12 June</b>	Junior championships qualifying rounds
<b>Sat 27 June</b>	8U Boys and Girls Grade 5 Tournament

<b>Sun 28 June</b>	12U Boys Grade 4 Tournament
<b>Sat 4 July</b>	9U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 5 July</b>	8U Boys and Girls Grade 5 Tournament 16U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>25 - 26 July</b>	Junior championships finals
<b>w/c 27 July</b>	Summer camp 1
<b>Sat 1 August</b>	14U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 2 August</b>	8U Boys and Girls Grade 5 Tournament 11U Girls Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 9 August</b>	16U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sun 16 August</b>	8U Boys Grade 5 Tournament
<b>Sat 22 August</b>	9U Boys Grade 5 Tournament 12U Girls Grade 5 Tournament
<b>w/c 10 August</b>	Summer camp 2
<b>w/c 17 August</b>	Summer camp 3
<b>Sun 6 Sept</b>	Junior championships contingency date