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## Aegon Winter County Cup success for Sussex Ladies

At the end of November 2014, our Sussex ladies team won Division 2b earning promotion to Division 1 next year. Well done to Caroline Matthews (Captain), Kyria Dunford, Lydia Hammond, Michaela Ince, Lisa Phillips, Kate Smith, Olivia Smith, Holly Thompson, Elise Van Heuvelen and Lucy Warburton.

The team had a resounding win on Friday, beating Leicestershire 9-0, followed by a tougher match yesterday, winning 6-3 against Cambridgeshire and won 5-2 today against South Wales.



## Beach Tennis 2015

Following a great season last year with fantastic Beach Tennis weather all through the season, the popularity of the sport is growing with a healthy increase in numbers of new players. The 2015 season will kick off with the regular mix in session on Sunday 22 March on the sand court, Brighton Seafront, just below the Grand Hotel.

Regular mix in sessions take place on Sundays are from 10am - 12pm and everyone is welcome, all levels, ages and abilities. There will also be some competitive leagues, as well as tournaments, including the annual British Open & ITF G4 event 16-17 May



On Sunday 12 April is our Open Day with "have a go", fun drills & prizes for the best dive, 10am – 1pm.

For further information please go to [www.beachtennisuk.co.uk](http://www.beachtennisuk.co.uk) or contact us by email on [info@beachtennisuk.co.uk](mailto:info@beachtennisuk.co.uk)

# Urban Tennis and U10s Team

## Urban Tennis Foundation arrives in Uckfield.

A new start charity - Urban Tennis Foundation (UTF), has been responsible for the launch of three brand new tennis courts at Victoria Pleasure Ground, the home of sport in Uckfield!

Victoria Pleasure Ground will see the new courts open in February 2015 after 12 months of detailed planning and negotiation which culminated in £100,000 being raised from Uckfield Town Council, the LTA, and Tennis Sussex. The support from Tennis Sussex Initiative was crucial in getting the project off the ground. The initial grant helped appoint a technical consultant to scope the work required and the follow up grant demonstrated to the council and other groups the commitment of the local county association to growing participation in tennis.

Gill Andersson and Anne Clark remember visiting a windswept Uckfield last February to sign off the consultants report by saying "We received a warm welcome from the team at Urban Tennis and over a cup of coffee, were able to talk about their aims and aspirations for finding a home for tennis in the town".



Anne says "I'm delighted with the progress made by this new start charity and these new facilities will be instrumental in bringing new players, of all ages and abilities, to the courts for lots of fun!"

The facilities will include new, non slip court surfaces, new perimeter fencing, and new key fob operated gates. Court 1 will serve as a dedicated training court with disabled access provision, 4 mini tennis courts marked out, and a new, innovative rebound wall. Tim Cottingham, a trustee and sports coach at Le Tennis Ltd, said "These new facilities have been carefully planned to accommodate both the casual player looking for fun and performance player looking to develop their technique".

Mayor Ian Smith said "This is an exciting project for the town and along with the current town centre revitalisation, I feel confident that Uckfield will benefit from this major improvement."

Deputy Mayor and Tennis Working Group member, Jeremy Hallett said "Bringing quality tennis to Uckfield has been part of our aim to support the broadening of sport and leisure opportunities for all in our town." Dan Elson, fellow trustee of Urban Tennis, commented "We are now in the final phase with the construction works due to end by mid-January, and we are now focused on completing the web booking system and key fobs for access."



The aim of Urban Tennis is to ensure the courts are here in perpetuity. As Simon Trott - trustee and local resident, says "by using innovative gate access technology we can sell key fobs to local residents and use this money to build a sinking fund for the maintenance and rebuilding of the courts in years to come." Separately, Urban Tennis will be reaching out to the five local primary schools in the town to offer them a term time coaching programme across all year groups. This will mean that around 900 children per year will be given high LTA approved coaching. All members of the local community (c.14,000 Uckfield residents, plus c.6,000 from surrounding villages) will have the opportunity to play on high quality new courts with professional coaching support available via group sessions. Simon Trott - Urban Tennis Foundation [www.urbantennisfoundation.org](http://www.urbantennisfoundation.org)



## Under 10s Friendly

Surrey invited Sussex 10U boys to play in a friendly match on 15 February.

The two teams met at David Lloyd, Raynes Park. Gill Andersson captained the Sussex team of James, Liam, Jonah and Thomas, the boys learnt a lot on the day and fed back they would love to play again.

Man of the match was Jonah who won all his matches. Overall score was a win to Surrey 7-3.

