

**HARROW LAWN TENNIS CLUB
SEPTEMBER 2015**

**TENNIS STARS OF THE FUTURE?
Juniors Lead the Way at HLTC**

Club President, Ralph Watson is delighted with the results from the Summer Leagues this year. Three out of the six men's teams have been promoted: Men's 1st, 2nd and 5th teams will be promoted to Divisions 1, 4 and 7 respectively next year. The remaining men's teams and the five women's teams all consolidated their positions in the divisions, enjoying a good season of tennis.

In addition to the many adults playing competitive matches, two juniors have made outstanding debuts in the summer league. Following is a report from their coach **Elaina Forland**:

After a lot of hard work and commitment, two of our girls have had outstanding success this season. Both **Tia Jakupovic** and **Ioana Steliana Scripcariu**, who joined us as absolute beginners, have each won numerous tournaments over the spring and summer, gaining early promotion to the next age group.

Tia finished off her U8 season by winning the Middlesex County closed, making her **Middlesex Champion**, having decided to take tennis more seriously only 5 months ago! Her hard work, enthusiasm and never say die attitude along with her natural gifts, means these are just the beginning of her tennis triumphs.

Ioana has proven to be a true champion. Having gained promotion to u9 in breakneck speed time, winning 94% of all u8 matches she has ever played, she entered her first two u9 tournaments this summer, both grade 3 (there are 8 grades - grade 1 being nationals and grade 2 invitation only national level events). She went on to win both these prestigious tournaments, beating both boys and girls up to 7 ratings higher than her.

However, she went 'back home' for the last few weeks of the summer, missing the county closed. Fortunately we were able to get her accepted in the Romanian National Championships.

Ioana caused a sensation with her attitude and determination. This tiny girl with the heart of a lion, who had not picked up a racket and could not speak a word of English 16 months ago, is the current **Romanian National under 9s Champion**. She is also the **U8 and U9 HLTC Champion**.

With many other good juniors hot on their heels, we look forward to the winter season.

The dedication of both of these young players and their tireless coach, Elaina, is a testament to the club and the future of British Tennis. They are showing drive, commitment and a strong competitive spirit which bodes well for their future. It's also clear when you see them at the courts how much they love the sport.

Tennis at HLTC is played all year round and we welcome new members, young and old at any time. Please come down to the courts on a Saturday morning to get a taste of what's on offer, or go to the website at www.hltc.net



TWO YOUNG TENNIS STARS at HLTC
Photos by Vicky de Lacy



Tia Jakupovic, current U8 Middlesex Champion; Elaina Forland, Coach; and Ioana Steliana Scripcariu, current U8/9 Club Champion and U9 Romanian Champion



Ioana in serious practise mode at the HLTC courts