



SUMMER UPDATE

↑  
THE DEDANISTS'  
FOUNDATION 



In Mid-December Paul Weaver, approached the T&RA and the Dedanists' Foundation to discuss ways of working together to increase junior participation in Real Tennis.

So together, a plan was hatched to offer more than 2000 T&RA members, a chance for their children/grandchildren to have a free lesson at their nearest Real Tennis court over the Christmas period.

The offer would be funded by the Dedanists' Foundation and was open to all newcomers to the game under the age of 18. The response was tremendous with 24 youngsters being signed up in just a few days for a free lesson to take place during the Christmas school holidays. A total of 10 Real Tennis clubs around the country were involved.

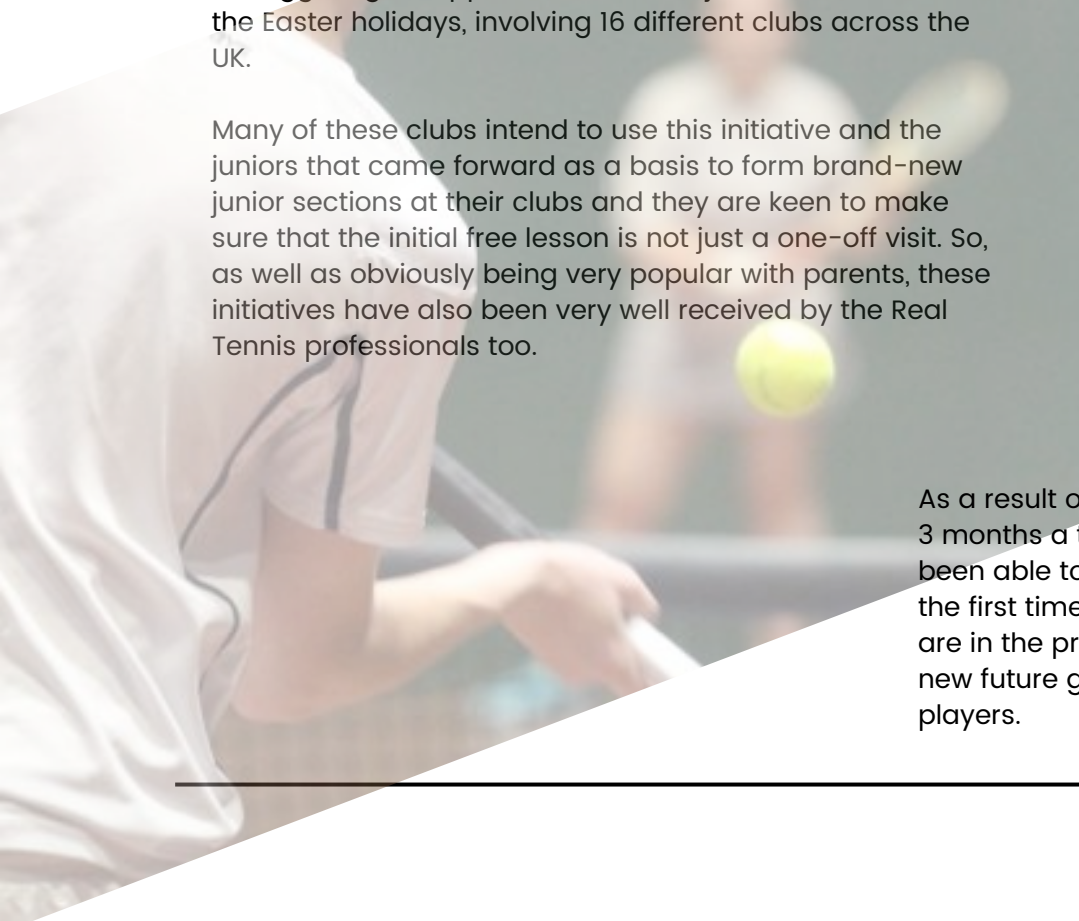
Not only did this initiative allow 24 youngsters the chance to experience our game for the first time, but it also opened up a conversation about junior tennis with some clubs that had not previously been very involved with juniors. The T&RA were delighted with the success and were keen to work with Paul to replicate similar junior initiatives in the future. The intention was to fund any similar initiatives on a 50-50 basis between the T&RA and the Dedanists' Foundation.

As a result, this process was repeated for the Easter holiday period. There were some slight reservations about the possibility of it not working again so soon after the Christmas success. How wrong could we be! We received a staggering 40 applications for free junior lessons over the Easter holidays, involving 16 different clubs across the UK.

Many of these clubs intend to use this initiative and the juniors that came forward as a basis to form brand-new junior sections at their clubs and they are keen to make sure that the initial free lesson is not just a one-off visit. So, as well as obviously being very popular with parents, these initiatives have also been very well received by the Real Tennis professionals too.

As a result of these initiatives, in the last 3 months a total of 64 youngsters have been able to experience Real Tennis for the first time and the feeling is that we are in the process of creating a whole new future generation of Real Tennis players.

# JUNIOR COACHING INITIATIVE 2023



# THE DEDANISTS' FOUNDATION CUP



The inaugural running of a new National Junior Real Tennis Tournament took place at the Bristol club over the weekend of 29th/30th April.

24 juniors from 8 different clubs took part, hoping to be the first to get their names on the Dedanists' Foundation Cup.

Taking this event to the Bristol club turned out to be a great success with a large number of parents and club members coming along to watch. In the U15 event on Saturday, two very close round-robin groups produced four semi-finalist pairs. Bristol pair, Caspian Rugg & Rafa Tujillo played twins, Rose & Oliver Kay from the Hyde club in the final, with Rose & Oliver coming out on top to win the trophy.

There were many close matches in over 4 hours of play which produced a final with Catherine & William James from RTC playing the local pair Elliot Watkins & Archie Campbell. In an entertaining match the Bristol pair struggled to overcome a large handicap difference and the title went to Catherine & William.

A great weekend for siblings with both the U15 and the U19 events won by brother/sister pairings! The tournament as a whole was a great success with Bristol already signing up to run it again next year. Many thanks go out Ben Coleman who marked the entire event and to the Bristol parents who provided a great lunch on both days.

The Dedanists' Foundation is delighted to be the sponsor. As a handicap event it very much fits in with our core objective of encouraging young players of all standards to take up and enjoy the game of Real Tennis.

## INAUGURAL 2023





## Another Successful University Season.

The Dedanists' Foundation awards grants to universities that have registered students Real Tennis Clubs. Our grants allow students in these clubs to regularly travel to and play at their nearest real tennis court. The grants go towards the cost of attending the annual Inter-University tournament held each year at Cambridge.

The Foundation also offers to help with the design and supply of leaflets to attract new university club members each September.

Supporting university real tennis provides an important link to help young players continue to play our game, even though they may have moved away from their original clubs to go to university. This year the tournament took place on the 10-12th of March and included 42 players from eight universities with a win for Durham University.



# INTER- UNIVERSITY



2023

# HOLYPORT OPEN DAY

On 15 April 2023, Holyport Real Tennis Club, hosted a junior open day, sponsored by the Dedanists' Foundation. Holyport has traditionally had very few junior players and the new pro, Josh Smith is determined to change that. With the help of the Dedanists' Foundation, he attracted 12 juniors, all newcomers to the game, to come and discover Real Tennis with some fun coaching sessions. Josh will now be following up on each of the participants to create a new junior section that has ongoing regular sessions. It is still very early days, but things are definitely going in the right direction at Holyport.





# PLH CUP 2022/23

## **PLH Cup FINAL 2022/23 Season**

### **Victory for Seacourt in a thrilling Final at Wellington.**

The final of this season's PLH Inter-Club junior team competition took place on Sunday 11th June on the Wellington College court. The tournament is sponsored each year by The Dedanists' Foundation. The clubs that made it through to the final were Seacourt and RTC. As the matches are played off handicap, the final was expected to be close and it was, with Seacourt winning the title in the final rubber. The trophy was presented to the Seacourt team by David Mills, Chairman of The Dedanists' Foundation.

This inter-club junior team competition is aimed at giving juniors who are relatively new to the game a chance to take part in team matches and meet their junior counterparts from other clubs.



Photos:  
Above; Paul Weaver with the Seacourt PLH team (left) & RTC team (right).  
Left: Some of the spectators and players on court at Wellington.