

The Tennis Newsletter of North Devon

Welcome to this newsletter, tasked with keeping you in the picture about events past, current, and yet to come. Celebrate and enjoy the game you love by joining in as much as you can.

Are you
In the
Picture?

Coming up

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Adult
Events

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**League and
N.D.T.
News**

Aus. Open

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Quiz
How's your
tennis
knowledge?

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**Di Govier
Tournament**
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Summer Programme 2022

We are looking forward to getting back to our usual format of home and away matches. Look out for the match schedules online, coming soon.

North Devon Tournament

25 February – 26 March

The tournament is back to its normal slot. There is still time to get an entry in.

Closing date: 18 February:

Info & Entry Form [Here](#)

Sharing is caring

Do you have an interest in

- Creating content for social media, newsletters, blog, email

Can you spare a couple of hours? Whether it be per week or per month, we'd love to hear from you.

Email [here](#) [More Info](#)

Pre-Australian Open 2022

Not quite normal but if players were willing to show up earlier than usual, then it was not going to be a problem.

As well as the usual pre-slam tournaments, we now have the ATP cup team competition.

ATP cup highlights

Some good teams entered. Russia won it last time and had the team. Medvedev, Rublev, Khachanov. Germany had Zverev, Great Britain had our rising stars of Dan Evans & Cam Norrie. Then there was Canada with Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Canada was the dominant team in this year's competition. However, one of their closest matches was against Great Britain. Dan Evans is more than just a plucky player. He has and shows just how difficult he is to play against. Heavy slices, staying low, an occasional topspin backhand down the line, approach shots angled to side-lines plus the usual gritted teeth with plenty of 'come on's thrown in. Cam Norrie on other hand was constantly off the pace. Tennis can be tough and cruel. Generally, the doubles deciders went the brit's way, but it was not enough against the inspired Canadians of Shapovalov and Auger-Aliassime.

View full blog post [here](#)

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Dear Diary,

25 February to 26 March

North Devon Tournament, Tarka Tennis Centre

Closing date: **18 February:** Info & Entry Form [Here](#)

3 April

Di Govier Tournament (*Final planned event*)

4 April

Summer Programme Commences

(Dates etc TBC @ Pre-season Meeting)

28 May - 5 June

ARC Summer Tournament

For a full list of **Junior Tournament Dates** Click [here](#)

ARC Men's Singles Tournament

By Marian Vinall

ARC trialled a one-day Men's Singles tournament Grade 4 on Saturday 5th February. The event was very popular, in fact so popular that there wasn't room for everyone who wanted to play!

Competitors travelled from Avon, Somerset, Devon, and Cornwall. The standard was very high and with everyone playing 4 matches in the Fast 4 format there were probably some sore bodies the next day! Ages ranged from U18's to those in their 40's but the youngest competitor took no prisoners, finally beating Leighton from Devonshire Plymouth in the final. Well done to Josh from Weston-Super-Mare.

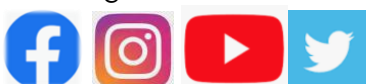
North Devon Tennis on social media



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Rafa: Australian Open Champion

Considered by many as not only the best tennis player but also the best athlete in history, we are talking about Rafael Nadal, currently in fifth place in ATP rankings. It is always news in the world of tennis, but it has been more so these days, in which he has been proclaimed winner of the Australian Open after defeating the Russian Daniil Medvedev after a night match that lasted nothing more and nothing less than 5 hours and 20 minutes, the result being 3-2 in favour of Nadal (2-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5). But it is not that Rafa Nadal won that match, but how he won it. He had to come back from 2-0 in favour of the Russian, in a poor state of form (since he was coming out of an injury) and at 35 years of age (10 years older than his opponent).

He is the champion of this tournament for the second time in his career, 13 years after having done it for the first time, when he defeated Roger Federer in 2009 also in 5 sets. We are talking about an athlete who is made of another cloth, the material in which great champions are made. It is not only his track record in his extensive career as a tennis player, but it is also his dedication, his courage, his mental strength, with which he faces each of his matches, how he fights each point, each game, each set, making people go crazy and forcing his opponents to fail.

He is not the most technically gifted on the circuit, even though he has evolved a lot since his beginnings (of pure claw and strength with a mediocre serve) until today, but he makes up for it with his physical and mental strength.

View full blog post [here](#)



Ash Barty: Australian Open Champion

There is one current topic in the world of women's tennis that stands out.

In recent tournaments, this player has emerged as an imposing figure in tennis. She is the beautiful Australian Ashleigh Barty, with only 1.66 of height this 25-year-old has been standing out in the main tennis arena, around the globe.

Ash is not only in the top 100 players of the WTA Tour but is the number one in the world, among her most outstanding achievements, are now three Grand Slams. In June 2019 was categorically champion of the Roland Garros tournament, beating the Czech Marketa Vondrousova in two sets, 6 - 1, 6 - 3.

In July 2021 Barty played in the final of Wimbledon against the Czech Karolina Pliskova; in a very close game that was extended to 3 sets, Ashleigh won the first set 6 - 3, but Karolina rebounded beating Ashleigh in the second set 7 - 6, so they had to play the third set. This would be dominated by the Australian 6 - 3 and thus became the champion.

Now, Ash Barty has managed to win a third Grand Slam in her career, this time it was the Australian Open, with the final played on the Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, where she had to face the American Danielle Collins, whom she defeated in two sets, 6 - 3, 7-6 (2). In a second set that she nearly lost, she managed to recover from 1-5 to win the set and the match.

View full
blog post [here](#)



DI GOVIER TOURNAMENT

By Sue Doncaster

Di died far too early, in June 2002, in her mid-fifties; she loved doubles and was a very keen member of the Ashleigh Road ladies' league team, for several years forming a successful partnership with Sue Williams. In her name, the ladies' doubles tournament was started because of conversations between Linda Mollart, Jill Verney, Sue Williams, and Sue Doncaster, who wanted to establish an event in her memory and provide a special sort of day for her ladies' play.

The first tournament was held at Ilfracombe club in April 2003 (appropriately won by Sue Williams and her daughter Anna). This was at a time when the Tarka Centre had only just opened, and opportunities for winter play were still limited. Thus it provided an ideal time to get players together before the League season started – which at that time was the end of April.

The format was designed to attract players of all levels, giving a day of competitive play, with a break for bringing and sharing lunch – which was always a popular feature.

Gordon Govier, Di's widower, generously donated two trophies for the winners. It has been held at Ilfracombe ever since, only one year it was completely rained-off, and in 2019 when rain again threatened a cancellation, it was moved to the indoor courts at ARC. Covid prevented holding it in 2020 and 2021.

It wasn't intended to become a fund-raising event, but it had over the years become customary to donate any profit to benefit N Devon Hospice or local Cancer Care.

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ARC Winter Open 2021

By Marian Vinall

This was held at the end of October indoors and was a great success. 91 different people entered a variety of events and competition was fierce during the week. Both weekends and 4 evenings were used and competitors were aged from 15 upwards. This tournament will now be an annual event in the ARC Calendar so please reserve the date for next year! (Last week in October)

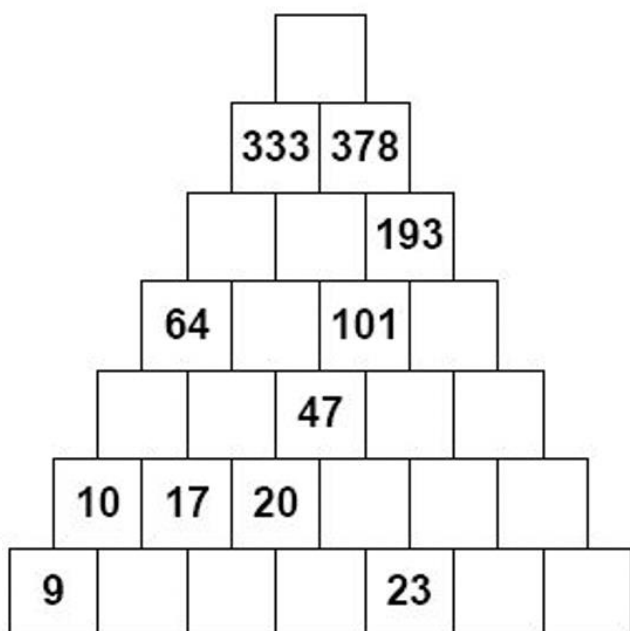
See full blog post [here](#)

Quiz

Pyramid Addition

The object of this brain teaser is to figure out what numbers would be in the empty boxes of the pyramid.

Each pair of blocks adds up to the block directly above them. This puzzle is pretty straightforward, but use your brain, not your calculator!



Di Govier Tournament...from page 3

It has now been decided that the 2022 tournament, 3rd April, will be the last. Linda, Sue W, and Sue D (Jill, because of ill-health, has been unable to continue her involvement) have agreed that it has run its natural life and no longer fulfils the original aims. We believe it is preferable to bring it to an end now rather than let it gradually fade out.

Therefore, we would love to think that this will again attract players from all over the North Devon tennis playing community and make this, the last one, a hugely successful finale. So make a note in your 2022 diaries and encourage anyone else you think would be interested.

Details and entry forms will be circulated nearer the time.



2003 Finalists L to R: Amy & Georgina, Anna & Sue (Winners)