

Eleanor wins Tony Scogings Award

At the prize ceremony of the Stellisons Junior Open played at Westcliff Hard on August 13th John Chesher announced that he and Stellisons had decided to create a commemorative award for the most promising junior at the club, and announced that in 2011 the inaugural cash prize, to be used for coaching or equipment, had been awarded to Eleanor Baglow.

It fell to John Tucker to represent not only the LTA as Essex President but also the sponsors. Tony Scogings who had founded Stellisons had sadly died two weeks previously and John made a moving tribute to his close friend. John Chesher the tournament organizer also paid tribute to the man who had initiated the financial support of the tournament and which this year had expanded to become support for all junior tennis at Westcliff Hard.

Stellisons had this year also arranged a new sponsor of the tournament itself, the German manufacturer **AEG**. Increased prize money had helped attract 114 players from all parts of the country, an increase from last year. The standard in the main age groups may have been lower than last year but in the younger age groups the quality of play was outstanding.

Lancashire Boy shows outstanding promise.

Peter Alam from Lancashire, playing in the tournament for the first time to warm up for the Nationals the following day, won the under 9 Open title in great style, and is a name to look out for in the future. Swedish player Peter Eriksson, won the Open under 8 event; and home players from Westcliff Hard, Nat Turner and Eleanor Baglow won the boys & girls titles in the under 10 group. In the girls final Saffron Dowse from Surrey displayed admirable fighting qualities in taking the match to a deciding tie break. The club's new Astroturf mini-tennis courts attracted high praise from the players' parents.

Earlier in the day Chelmsford player Ben Good beat the top seed Jake Read from Leigh to win the under 14 singles trophy, and Ben also featured in two doubles finals. Jake's brother Luke restored family pride by winning a tight 3 setter against Harry Needham in the under 12s.

In the older groups Danny Sanderson from Westcliff Lawn did well to reach the final but was as expected well beaten by Thorpe Bay's Harry Randle, recent winner of the Essex Open. Southend's Vicky Wilson won the senior girls title and in the under 16s Westcliff Hard's top seed Max Chesher lost to Finlay Milner from the same club. Westcliff Hard were also pleased to provide two winners of girls titles, Hayley Needs and Jessica Bunting.

Daisy Ronn from Chelmsford won the under 16s beating Nigerian Seyi Adegbite who had beaten two higher ranking players to get to the final, including a semi final against Charlotte Cousins from Chelmsford who displayed her usual good grace after losing a very close match.

Highlight of the doubles for home club fans was the surprise but deserved win of James Needs and Jessica Bunting in the under 14 mixed.

In his summing up John Tucker stated that he had first visited the club over 60 years ago and was as ever delighted to visit this happy tournament which had again been successfully run by its team of volunteers.