

## **DTSC AEGON TEAMS TENNIS 2015**

Dorchester Tennis & Squash Clubs tennis teams have become County champions in 3 categories in the Aegon Teams Tennis and proved themselves to be capable of playing against the best clubs in the County. The Club entered 10 teams across the age groups

The successful teams were the Men, who won all their matches in the County league and now progress to the play-off stages where they will face a very strong team from Bristol to fight for the right to play in National Division 2 next year. The squad of Alex White, Kevin Willemse, Ben Skidmore, George Morrissey and Guy O'Neill defeated four other Dorset Clubs with White and Willemse remaining unbeaten.

The boys 14 & under team also won all their matches, so become County Champions. Their squad of Joe Chambers, Joe Albon, Charlie Barnett, Ellery Ford and Matthew Smith played well as a team, with Matthew remaining unbeaten from all his matches. Like the men's team, each match comprises of 4 singles and 2 doubles playing against other Clubs within the County.

The Girls teams only play in a team of two, each playing a singles and a doubles match. Dorchester Girls 14 & under team, with a squad of Emily Noel, Jenna & Gabby Bennett played 4 other Clubs, and remained unbeaten as a team, so became Dorchester's third team of County Champions. Gabby was unbeaten. Pauline Chambers and James Noel captained the two junior teams to their victories.

Dorchester also entered teams in other age groups with a variety of success. In the youngest age group, 8 & under, the team was unbeaten in the area championships, playing some exceptional tennis to beat the other local clubs. The team of youngsters consisted of Josh Jackson, Noah Mayers, Henry Theobald and Jemima Owen then went on to play the County finals against some very experienced players, and came a very creditable 3rd in the County. For a team as inexperienced as the players are, this was particularly rewarding.

The 9 and Under team, captained by Mark & Becky Sanders, lost to a very good Weymouth team in the area competition, finishing second in their league after beating Shaftesbury, Sherborne and Weymouth's 2nd team, but qualified as lucky losers to go through to the County semi-finals. They unfortunately lost to an extremely strong team of very experienced players from West Hants, but put on a good display of tennis, had a fantastic team spirit and will hopefully go on to play together for many years to come. Well done to Ben Sanders, Noah Smith, Nathan Sloley, James Greig and Albert Blackburn.

The 10 & under team fought hard to come 3rd in their league, with some encouraging performances from all the players. Special mention goes to Ethan Robinson for some strong performances against the top players in the county. Nathaniel Skinner fought well in his matches. The Club entered two teams in the boys 12 & under league with the A team having a tough time in County division one, and finishing in 5th place. The B team fared better in the second division coming 3rd. The Boys 16 & under team were in a very strong league, and did well to finish in 3rd place. The Girls 18 & under team did well to finish in second place to a very strong team from East Dorset.

Many congratulations to all the players. For the juniors this is hopefully the starting base for years of team tennis to come. The Club's tennis coaches would also like to thank the parents for their support of the teams over the summer, some in the roles as Team Captains and others as taxi drivers and cake makers. Without them the teams wouldn't be able to exist.