



## Murray's historic win brings people to court

**MURRAY** Mania has spread to Tynedale with local tennis courts packed following Andy's historic win at Wimbledon.

As the Scot became first Brit to win the men's singles championship for 77 years on Sunday, people from the district were inspired to head to their nearest club to take in a spot of tennis.

Even though Murray's win over world number one Novak Djokovic did not finish until early evening, Tynedale Tennis Club, in Hexham, was inundated with keen tennis players on Sunday.

And chairman George Miller was hopeful the interest would continue for years to come.

He said: "It is fantastic news that Murray has won Wimbledon and it will definitely give British tennis a shot in the arm and will help arrest the fall in participation, which has went down by 14 per cent in five years."

"What the UK was lacking was a role

model but now they have the American Open, Olympic and Wimbledon champion. Attendances always pick up after Wimbledon but we can already see an extra interest following the success, with Sunday evening pretty busy once the final had finished.

"It is going to encourage more young people to play the sport and I think it will benefit all clubs across Tynedale."

A new club has been started in Corbridge in the past few weeks, and it was expecting its membership of 111 to sharply increase.

Treasurer Nick Lever was impressed with the initial interest shown in the club at Tynedale Rugby Club, and was looking forward to watching it expand.

He said: "The success will help us promote our club, and I think all clubs across Northumberland will grow."

"Who knows, somewhere like Corbridge or Tynedale may be the birthplace of the next Andy Murray."



Joining in the tennis boom at Tynedale are Rebecca Wren, Jonah Libertto and Euan Kerr.

Photo: D2813110

## Dominic misses on final place

**ATHLETICS:** BY the narrowest of margins, a talented Haydon Bridge High School pupil missed out on an appearance in a national athletics final.

Dominic Weller was just one of a handful of Tynedale athletes chosen to represent Northumberland in the prestigious English Schools Athletic Association Track and Field Championships.

And he came within a whisker of joining the cream of the country for a chance to pick up a medal, just an agonising 0.1 seconds off a place in the junior boys 200m final.

A small crumb of comfort to Dominic was that his time of 23.68 was a new Year 9 school record.

It was a similar story for Tynedale's representatives, the thrill of representing the county in the nationals ultimately ending in disappointment.

The event was held at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium. An unprecedented total of four athletes from Tynedale Harriers were selected to represent the county in the English Schools.

The pick of the bunch from the club was Joe Hughes, competing in the junior boys 300m.

He recorded a fine personal best of 37.97 seconds in his heat to qualify for the semi-finals the following day, but he could not improve on the time and he missed out on a place in the final.

Also competing in the junior boys age group were clubmates Matthew Jackson and Max Pearson, who also failed to progress to their respective finals.

However, they both showed promise as Matthew narrowly missed his best time in a quality 800m field and rising star Max Pearson performed admirably in the 1500m despite being a year younger than the rest of the competition.

In the senior boys events, Jonny Currie had a rare off-day and finished several seconds outside his recent outstanding best time of one minute and 55.83 seconds in Manchester.

Even a repeat of that performance would not have been enough to see him through to the final, though, such was the quality of athletic talent on display.

Also making an appearance in the nationals was Prudhoe High School pairing of Callum Outerside and Alex Roney, both in the junior boys category.

With a time of 2:09.98, Callum could only finish seventh in his 800m heat with Alex fifth in his heat of the 80m hurdles with a time of 11.8.

Philippa Chambers, of Ponteland High School, was the only female representative from Tynedale and she finished sixth in the inter girls 3000m with a time of 10:19.31.

# Alyson has too much pace for Tynedale 10k runners

ONE of the country's leading female marathon runners hit the district's streets to show she is useful at shorter distances too.

Sunderland Stroller Alyson Dixon, who narrowly missed out on qualification for London 2012 Olympics, finished as fastest female in the Tynedale 10k road race.

The talented athlete put in a brilliant performance to win the women's race by more than five minutes, her time of 33 minutes and 40 seconds seeing her in 10th place overall.

Second female was Elaine Leslie (38.44), of Jarrow and Hebburn Harriers, who was also crowned first in the F45 category, with clubmate Angela McGuirk (39.10) in third.

First to cross the line overall was Ian Hudspeth, of Morpeth Harriers, in a super time of 30:23. But he was chased all the way by Mark Hood, of Sunderland Harriers, who finished just 12 seconds later.

The winning times for both the men and women were significantly quicker than in recent years, coming close to course records.

This year's event featured so much high quality that runners at the front end last year's winner, Tyne Bridge Harrier Steve Cairns (32.48), who came away with the prize for fastest M45 participant, had to settle for eighth place despite improving on his time!

In third place overall was Matthew Nicholson, of Morpeth, as he crossed the line in a time of 31.51.

The popular event, organised by Tynedale Harriers, again drew in large crowds of runners with 578 competing over the 6.2-mile course. The Wylam Garage sponsored event starts from Ovington and heads to Low Prudhoe via Wylam, and again incorporated an award for the George Ogle Memorial Mile.

This award is presented to the first man and woman to reach the one-mile point,



The early leaders in the Tynedale 10k try to break away from the pack.

Photo: DAVID T. HEWITSON/Sports for All



Alyson Dixon enjoyed a huge winning margin in the race.

after the dash downhill from Ovington to Ovingham.

This year the Memorial Mile was won by Sparrow Morley, of Tyne Bridge Harriers, who crossed the mile marker in a swift 4:16 and, not surprisingly given her substantial lead at the end, Alyson Dixon in 4:50. They each received a bottle of

champagne. The runners enjoyed a pie and peas supper before the awards ceremony at Ovingham Middle School, where prizes were presented to all the age group winners, as well as to the winning teams.

This year, the men's team prize was awarded to Morpeth Harriers, and the women's team prize went to Tyne Bridge Harriers – the exact opposite way around to last year.

Tynedale Harriers are now looking forward to welcoming runners back to their next race on Sunday, September 1, the 10-mile Jelly Road Race.

The event will incorporate the NECAA and VAANE 10 mile championships.

Instead of pie and peas, the finishers are rewarded with a sandwich and a brightly coloured jelly! Hundreds of runners from all over the north of England flock to Tynedale every year for the treat in the race calendar.

## Junior title stays with Stocksfield

FOR the fourth year running, the West Tyne League Junior Cup belongs to Stocksfield U18.

The talented team continued their dominance in the competition, defeating opponents Benwell and Walbottle by a comfortable margin of 60 runs.

In the third meeting between the sides this season, hosts Stocksfield were elected to bat first having lost the toss. And they did not get off to the start they would have liked, wickets falling at regular intervals early on.

But Stocksfield did manage to form small partnerships along the way, with Peter Walker the highlight as he top scored with a brilliant 35 not out as he pulled out some eventful shots.

Despite good bowling figures from Benwell's Walker (2-31 off five overs), the home side posted 143-5 from 18 overs. Benwell's reply got off to a disastrous start and they were staring down the barrel of the gun at 6-3 after just three overs.

Some excellent bowling figures from Ryan Chamberlain (5-2-14-36) and Perry Hall (4-1-25-2) saw Benwell lose wickets at key times in their innings, and they ended their 18 overs on 83-9.



Stocksfield U18 continued their dominance in the West Tyne League Junior Cup.

## Sport in brief

### GOLF

**GOLFERS** are being called upon to help raise money for the Great North Air Ambulance.

Tynedale Rotary Club will host its 22nd annual charity tournament, at Prudhoe Golf Club, on Friday September 6.

Teams of four are required for the friendly competition.

To enter, please contact Tom Kelsey, on (01434) 600372 or email tomkelsey@btinternet.com

### FOOTBALL

**HEDDON FC**, of Northern Alliance Division One, are on the look-out for a new manager to help them push for promotion back to Premier Division.

Anyone interested in filling the vacancy should contact secretary John Shaxon on (07505) 145333.

## Ready for cup showdown

**FOOTBALL:** LOCAL pride will once again be on the line when the much anticipated Clayton Charity Cup returns on Wednesday.

The annual pre-season tournament for teams from the Tynedale area will see six teams battle it out for the honour of being crowned the district's top dogs.

Reigning champions Ryton and Crawcrook Albion, of Northern League Division Two, will have to wait until the following Monday to start their title defence when they start with a re-run of last year's final against Wallington.

The latter, who are looking forward to getting their Northern Alliance Premier Division campaign under way following their capture of the Division One title last year, will help get the Clayton Cup action under way next week as they welcome Hexham to Scots Gap.

Wallington hold the upper hand over their opponents, completing the double over them last campaign despite being run close in the 1-0 and 2-0 triumphs.

On the same evening, Premier Division side

Stocksfield will face Division One outfit Ponteland United to kick-start Group B of the competition.

Both have been buoyed by solid finishes to season 2012-2013, Stocksfield finishing a record eighth in the top tier of the Alliance and United clinching the Pin Point Recruitment Combination Cup as results started to pick up.

Stocksfield will follow up their meeting with Ponteland with a game the following Monday against Alliance newcomers Chopwell, the two teams putting aside their

friendliness for the evening. The remaining group games will be played on Wednesday, July 24, Hexham facing Ryton in Group A's finale and Ponteland and Chopwell facing off to try to progress out of Group B.

Allendale Sports Club will once again host the Stan Jackson Cup final, on Monday, July 29, which will be contested between the two teams who finish bottom of their groups.

The final will be held at Haydon Bridge on Thursday, August 1.

## Cant celebrates county record

**CRICKET:** TYNEDALE'S talented skipper has written his name into the county's history books.

Representing Northumberland in the Minor Counties Championship match against Bedfordshire, Tom Cant and partner Adam Cragg, of South Northumberland, made a record breaking sixth wicket stand of 188.

With county cricket running for more than 150 years, young Cant's achievement is a big deal in Northumberland as he and Cragg eclipsed the previous best of 177 recorded seven years ago.

The record breaking partnership was made on the first of three days, the match ending in a draw despite Northumberland being on top.

North were struggling for

momentum on 145-5, but the partnership finally got the innings going and the team ended on a fantastic 461-9.

Cant had been dropped at mid-wicket by Bedfordshire skipper Jamie Hewitt before reaching his half century, and it proved costly as he went on to record 90 runs.

His involvement in the innings ended when he was caught at square leg boundary as he went in pursuit of his ton.

Cant then showed his all-round ability the following day, finishing with bowling figures of 3-74 as Bedfordshire were dismissed for 317.

Northumberland had declared on 325-6 before Cant got a chance to bat in the second innings, but he did take one wicket for 44 in Bedfordshire's second innings on the final day.