

## Sadness in tennis after loss of Beth

A shadow has been cast over the Bolton tennis community this week with the very sad and sudden death of the league's junior match secretary, Beth Holmes, at the young age of 25, *writes Mark Pearson.*

She was in her second year in the role, and also helped in the running of the winter league alongside her mother Julie and grandmother Jean.

At Barrow Bridge, she captained the Ladies team. It was great credit to her that she got so involved with the tennis community at such a young age and she will be sorely missed by all.

On the tennis courts this week, the top two teams in Division One of the junior league met at Markland Hill with Hawkshaw A being the visitors. The final score was 5-1 to Markland Hill A, suggesting a comfortable win, but many of the sets were close. Gwilym Dixon and Annabelle Hutchinson were undefeated for the home team. Will Bradley and Evie Coxen registered Hawkshaw's only success.

Bradshaw A moved past Hawkshaw into second place, following their 4-2 win against Lostock A. Amelie Warder won all her three sets for Bradshaw, whilst Stanley Palmer was Lostock's most successful player. Markland Hill A are in the driving seat with 17 points from 6 matches. Bradshaw A (14 points) and Hawkshaw A (13) are still in contention, but they have played 7 matches.

Markland Hill B were without a match this week but are clear leaders of Division Two on 15 points. Lostock B in second place tied at 3-3 with third-placed Markland Hill C. Isabella Hutchinson won all her sets for Markland Hill; Clark Pearson and Joshua Gerrard were Lostock's strongest contributors. Bottom of the table, Bradshaw B recorded their first win of the season away to Holcombe Brook B. Amarachi Okeke won all her sets for Bradshaw while Giacomo Guidi starred for Holcombe Brook.

With three weeks still to play, Hawkshaw B have incredibly already won Division Three. They clinched the title with a 5-1 win over David Lloyd Nautago. Thomas Humphreys and Maddi Liddy won the one set for David Lloyd. This was the first set Hawkshaw B have dropped this year.

As with Division Two, the second and third placed teams met and with the same outcome – a 3-3 tie. This was a very tight match between Markland Hill D and Holcombe Brook C. Three sets were decided on a tie-break. Adrijan Fletcher was in the three winning three sets for Markland Hill while Tess Mayer and Molly Loster each won two sets for Holcombe Brook.