

ONE TEAM BULLETIN



#44

August 2025

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WELCOME

Dear Readers,

Our summer of tennis is in full swing, and I imagine many of you are busy organising, playing, or cheering on tennis and padel matches across the country. Even our LTA Major Events and The Championships, Wimbledon have come and gone in a flash. I hope you enjoyed every minute of them all and celebrated the success of our GB players and being centre stage of global tennis for a few weeks.

We began this quarter with the LTA National Awards in April – a truly memorable evening celebrating excellence across 25 categories. It was a joy to welcome familiar faces, including broadcasting legend Sir Trevor McDonald and tennis icon Sue Barker, who added a special touch by presenting awards to our outstanding winners and finalists. Huge congratulations to everyone involved and thank you to all the counties who played their part. Nominations for the 2026 Awards are now open – a great opportunity to recognise the incredible individuals who help our tennis and padel communities thrive.

As the grass court season gathers pace, it has been a whirlwind of tournaments and events – from local award presentations and major competitions to Area Volunteer Forums, venue forums, inclusion workshops, and coach networks. Highlights have included the Tennis Black List celebration and the She Rallies conference during the Queen's WTA tournament, held in partnership with the Women's Sports Collective.

On the courts, GB players reached four finals at Roland Garros, delivered exciting wins in the build-up to Wimbledon and were present in the main draws of The Championships in the biggest number in the open era. Our incredible volunteers were out in force at our major events – easy to spot in their pink shirts and always ready to assist.

In this edition, you will find inspiring stories focused on workforce and inclusion, including Warwickshire Aces and Empowering Youth Through Tennis Leadership. We're also delighted to share highlights from the LTA Tennis Foundation's Annual Report launch at the House of Lords, along with the latest from the 'Give. Set. Match.' charity challenge.

We hope you enjoy this issue – and the fantastic summer of tennis still to come.

Sarah Proctor

Sandi's Photo Challenge

Sandi has challenged counties and member organisations to find the best photos of your summer events that are connected to inclusion. The aim is to showcase the fabulous 'Tennis Opened Up' activity around the country. The best photos will be displayed at the December LTA Council meeting at the National Tennis Centre and featured in the following bulletin.

The rules are simple:

- Theme: Inclusion
- Must feature people or activity from your own club or organisation or in your local area
- Taken during 2025
- High-quality digital images
- Have the required consents

All counties and member organisations are invited to take part, and some are running internal challenges to submit winners to the final challenge. Just imagine the sheer number of great photos we will have in our photo libraries if everyone joins in.

So, start snapping now and send your photos to your county or organisation. The deadline for councillors to submit Photos is Monday 17th November 2025.



AWARDS

The Tennis Scotland Awards Returns to Stirling

By Team Tennis Scotland

Tennis Scotland recently hosted its annual Awards ceremony at the Stirling Court Hotel, welcoming nearly 150 guests for an evening of celebration, recognition, and inspiration. Over a three-course dinner, 22 awards were presented to outstanding venues, coaches, officials, players, and volunteers.

Special guests included Scotland rugby legend and Tennis Scotland Board member Sean Lineen, and Christine Windmill OBE, who helped present the awards. The ceremony, hosted by TV presenter Rhona McLeod, also featured video messages from top Scottish players Gordon Reid and Jacob Fearnley.

A highlight of the evening was a live interview with Wimbledon mixed doubles semi-finalist and Tennis Scotland performance coach Jonny O'Mara. He shared behind-the-scenes insights from his time coaching Sir Andy Murray, whose retirement following the Paris Olympics was marked with an emotional tribute video celebrating his legacy and influence on Scottish tennis.



Another milestone celebrated was the centenary of the women's Scottish Inter-Club Challenge Cup. A commemorative short film featured 75+ world number one Marjory Love, who received two awards and was a standout of the evening.

The night concluded with the Lifetime Achievement Award, given to 89-year-old Patrick Leonard, who is Dumbarton Tennis Club's longest-serving member and a steadfast community figure. It was a powerful evening that honoured both historic milestones and contemporary excellence. Planning is already underway for next year's celebration.

AWARDS

A Night of Celebration, Community and Tennis in Gloucestershire

By Helen Williams and Ben Knapp. Gloucestershire

Keeping with the theme of awards, more than 130 tennis players, coaches, officials, volunteers, and award winners from the Gloucestershire tennis community gathered at Kingsholm Rugby Club for an unforgettable evening celebrating the sport in our county.

Guests enjoyed a fantastic meal and the privilege of meeting LTA President, Sandi Procter, who personally presented the awards to this year's outstanding achievers. In total, 10 awards were presented, including the prestigious Mary Eyre Awards, which recognise the county's top junior boy and girl. Such is the high standard of junior tennis in Gloucestershire that, in addition to the main winners, four young players were also recognised with Highly Commended awards.



The evening featured lively entertainment, thanks to event partners Aitch & Aitch Bee, who hosted a raffle and live auction, raising valuable funds for the Gloucestershire LTA. Guests also took part in a fun, tennis-themed game of heads and tails, and enjoyed an engaging Q&A session with Sandi.

While it was inspiring to celebrate our award winners, the real highlight of the evening was the buzz of conversation, with players, friends, and rivals sharing stories and their love of tennis.

AWARDS

Do You Know a Tennis or Padel Hero? – Get Nominating!

The LTA Awards, presented by Lexus UK are back—and we're looking for the unsung heroes of our sport.

Launched in 2015 by former LTA President Cathie Sabin OBE, these awards recognise the dedication, passion, and impact of the thousands of volunteers, coaches, officials, venues and players who help tennis thrive across the UK.

From local clubs to national initiatives, we want to hear about the people and organisations making a real difference in their communities. Nominations for 2026 are now open.



If you know someone who goes above and beyond for British tennis, nominate them today click the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Watch the highlights from the star-studded ceremony which took place earlier this year by clicking the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

AWARDS

Thank You to Our Volunteers

We marked Volunteers' Week (2 June to 8 June) with a message from President Sandi Procter and our latest LTA Award Winners.

While we are proud to celebrate our incredible volunteers all year round, we wanted to give a special shoutout to those who play a vital role in delivering tennis across the country. Hear from our President by clicking the button below.

[CLICK HERE](#)



County Cup Spotlight: Sherborne Hosts the 10U Boys County Cup

By Peter Bradshaw, Surrey and Heather Bottomley, Norfolk

Under bright blue skies, the 10U Boys County Cup in Dorset took place in the historic town of Sherborne, famous for its Abbey and the Castle built by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1594. Fittingly for a tennis enthusiast like Raleigh, who was once jailed for a court-side fight. Luckily this event saw only positive, respectful behaviour.

The organisation was excellent, and the atmosphere warm and welcoming. Players and parents alike demonstrated kindness and sportsmanship, making the event enjoyable for all.

A few things stood out to me. First, the empathy of the coaches across all counties: win or lose, they were consistently encouraging, praising both their players and the opposition. It brought to mind the words above Wimbledon's Centre Court: "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same." Coaches clearly played a vital role in fostering an inclusive, supportive environment.



Second, the parents' gracious support. Whether celebrating a win or consoling after a loss, they set a great example for the children. I was particularly amazed to meet one parent whose four children were all representing their county—a real labour of love!

Finally, a big thank you to Referee Daniel Bartlett, who kept the event running smoothly and on time, ensuring everyone got home before the Sunday traffic. Thankfully, no one ended up in the Castle dungeons!

Lexus Junior National Championships 2025: A Showcase of Rising Talent

By Richard Joyner, LTA Tournament Manager



April delivered outstanding tennis at the National Tennis Centre with the 16U & 18U Lexus Junior National Championships.

Repositioned in the domestic calendar in 2021, the event now offers wild card feed-up opportunities into the Wimbledon Championships, thanks to its partnership with the All England Lawn Tennis Club.

This marked the start of a five-week LTA Performance Competition swing, followed by the ITF J200 Aldershot and two ITF World Tour events in Nottingham. Some players competed throughout, including Hollie Smart (top seed in 16U girls), who reached the W35 Nottingham quarterfinals. Fourteen-year-old Megan Knight stood out, winning the 16U title, the J200 Aldershot, and making her pro tour debut in Nottingham.

The event has grown significantly, now featuring live streaming, electronic scoreboards, commentary, and Wimbledon ball crew.

For the first time, the LTA Ticket App was used for the 18U finals, where US Open Junior Champion Mika Stojsavljevic defeated Hannah Klugman. Olly Bonding retained his title in style, earning a Wimbledon Qualifying wild card.

18U Doubles titles went to Hollie Smart & Mia Wainwright, and Felix Bockelmann-Evans & Ferran Redza. Finals Day also welcomed eight GB Para-standing team members, including world champions Georgia Routledge, Ross Cudmore, and Matt Grover.

Thank you to all involved, and to President Sandi Procter, Nigel Jordan, and Jack Spicer from Lexus for presenting our champions.



Wales on the World Stage: Wrexham to Host Landmark W100 Tennis Event

By Simon Johnson, Tennis Wales

The city of Wrexham will host the Lexus Wrexham Open from the 19 - 26 October 2025. This is the largest women's tennis event in GB outside of the grass court seasons and will bring the thrill of the ITF World Tennis Tour to Wrexham Tennis & Padel Centre.

We officially launched the event in April at The Ramada Hotel, with stakeholders from the Welsh Government, Wrexham Council, Wrexham Football Club, and the LTA to hear how the \$100,000 ITF World Tennis Tour women's competition is going to benefit Wales and British Tennis this year. Our goal is for everyone to rally behind the event to help create a transformative impact on tennis in Wrexham.



The host venue, Wrexham Tennis & Padel Centre has just wrapped up a major development. Thanks to two years of work and £2.6m in grant funding from various partners, one of Great Britain's and Wales' largest CITCs now boasts three brand-new covered padel courts, resurfaced outdoor acrylic courts, upgraded indoor lighting, plus a refreshed café and social spaces. Tennis Wales led the development on these improvements, ensuring the development has an outstanding offering for players, spectators, and the local community.



If you are interested in getting involved and supporting the W100 Lexus Wrexham Open, please email Pam.Griffiths@tenniswales.org.uk for more information.

Essex Tennis Serves Up an Inspirational Weekend of Disability Tennis

By Paul Marks and Juliet O'Mahony, Essex Tennis

The weekend of 17–18 May was a celebration of inclusive sport in Essex, with the county hosting a series of events for disability players.

The weekend began with a training course for coaches, focused on Wheelchair and Para-standing Tennis (PST), led by coach Mark Bullock. The Para-standing Regional Tournament took place at Lee Valley, bringing together 16 players, competing across events including Singles, PST 3 Singles round robin, and Doubles.



Meanwhile, the Learning Disability (LD) Regional Tournament was held at Redbridge and marked the final stage in the Road to Wimbledon qualifiers. Thirty players from across England, Scotland, and Wales competed fiercely for the remaining spots at the prestigious Wimbledon event. The standard of tennis in both singles and doubles was exceptionally high, with several players having previously represented Great Britain. Competitors took part in five Yellow Ball and one Orange Ball competitions. The Doubles Final was hotly contested, featuring well-matched teams from Essex and Kent who were familiar with each other's games through a monthly performance group led by Essex Tennis performance coach, Dave Wright.

A Junior Event took place for the first time for LD players age 12 and under. This will now be followed up with a local development group for the players.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made this weekend possible—volunteers, umpires, referees, coaches, and of course, the players themselves.

Tennis for Everyone: How Inclusive Festivals Inspire Change in Oxfordshire

By Steve Winyard and Ade Bates, Tennis Oxfordshire

Inclusive tennis? What is it and how do you get more clubs and players involved? Crucially, how do you get across the message that tennis is a sport for everyone? It's a challenge, with "inclusion" easily coming over as a bit abstract and "different".

At the end of April, we held an "Inclusive Tennis Festival" that showcased the different forms of adaptive tennis. Across the day we ran focused sessions for Wheelchair, Special Education Needs, Visual Impairment, Walking and Health and Wellness Tennis, and finally Pickleball. Each involved local players and was delivered by our specialist coaches.



The sessions ran in sequence and started with wheelchair tennis and our star Louise Hunt, GB Paralympian and former British wheelchair tennis player. Louise opened the festival with a powerful message to get involved and "enjoy". And for sure that was what happened throughout the day as the video shows.

Alongside getting on court, participants and spectators had the opportunity to talk to representatives from charities and partner organisations such as Age UK Oxfordshire to learn of the support they can provide towards making a reality of "tennis for all" at local level.

Did we achieve our overall aim? Most definitely! Venues from across the County joined us and a number made a clear commitment to "give it a go". In one case to organise some walking tennis sessions, in another to start a local SEN group to supplement the weekly journey to the County Tennis Centre.

Lastly, we would like to say a big thanks to our amazing volunteers who organised and ran the festival. Without them, it wouldn't have been possible.

So, over to you...
Worth giving it a try in your patch?

Wheelie Able Doubles: One Court, One Game

By Rachel Opie, Lincolnshire Tennis

Sticking with the theme of inclusive tennis, Sleaford Tennis Club, in the south of Lincolnshire, has been at the forefront of introducing inclusive tennis within the county. For some time, Sleaford has been one of several clubs offering an inclusive social squad where wheelchair and ambulant players mix. This squad has grown out of The Richard Edgley Challenge event which has been run for the last 2 years and has been well attended by both wheelchair and ambulant players. It was named after the late Richard Edgley, an inspirational Lincolnshire coach, who had a dream of all players being regarded as simply tennis players whether disabled or fully able-bodied: one tennis court/one game, no segregation.



The format has now evolved into a county wide competition, the Wheelie Able Doubles league. The first Challenge event was an indoor event and concluded in February, it was extremely well supported throughout. The final session brought some extremely hard fought over games and was very competitive. We even made the local news with Look North coming to the event and filming a piece.

The next Challenge starts shortly and will be run as an outdoor event

and players are already looking forward to it. This year, the Richard Edgley Challenge will be incorporated into the League format and venues will include Sleaford, Horncastle and Lincoln.

The photo depicts our proud winners holding their trophies.



Visually Impaired (VI) Tennis Makes a Triumphant Return to Cambridgeshire

By Julie Wych and Steve Shaw, Cambridgeshire Tennis

After a 5-year hiatus due to COVID-19 and organisational challenges, VI tennis is back and thriving in Cambridgeshire! With 8 visually impaired players, 6 dedicated volunteers, 1 experienced coach, and Molly the guide dog, the sessions are full of energy, learning, and fun. Each bi-monthly session includes engaging warm-up games forehand, backhand, and serving drills; competitive tie-break matches with rotating partners, and of course, a well-earned break with coffee, cake, and biscuits.

Thanks to generous support from Cambridgeshire Tennis and Sport England, these sessions are fully funded throughout 2025, making tennis accessible and enjoyable for all levels of sight and experience. A few testimonials:



'Very sincere and very grateful thanks for planning and co-ordinating Sunday's VI tennis. It was an excellent event and please extend my thanks to your volunteers, they are a super bunch of lovely people.' 'I was absolutely exhausted on my return home not surprising after playing 2 hours of tennis. Special thanks to the volunteers for all the running around chasing tennis balls and all the help on the court.'

'Thank you to the team for another enjoyable VI tennis session and for all the encouragement, patience and support. Since losing my sight my confidence has taken a 'knocking' and these sessions are a great help in boosting my morale.'

WORKFORCE, VENUES, COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

Hemingfords Tennis Club Shines Bright with New Courts and Floodlights

By Liz Hill and Julie Wych, Cambridgeshire Tennis

Keeping with Cambridgeshire Tennis, Hemingfords Tennis Club held the official opening of their new courts and floodlights in April - a long time coming as floodlights were first mentioned in the club minutes as far back as 1990, some 35 years prior! The club was delighted to welcome Sandi Procter, to do the honour of cutting the ribbon on the day. It was fantastic to hear her insight on the steps that have been made to increase participation in tennis around the LTA vision 'Tennis Opened Up' and what we can all do to improve it further. True to her word, she also took time to get involved with the junior coaching; something that the children thoroughly enjoyed and the day wouldn't have been complete without a Sandi Q&A session! Members of Cambridgeshire LTA were also there to see the product of their generous loan that enabled the club to complete the project. In addition to the loan, the club are very grateful to the Thalia WVB Community Fund. Without their generous grant, the new surface and floodlights would not have been possible. Ben Obese-Jecty, the local MP, also came along to see the improved facility - one that we are eager to share, not just with those living in the Hemingfords but with everyone in the local area.



WORKFORCE, VENUES, COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

Walking Tennis and Volunteers take Centre Stage in Dorset

By David Lloyd and David Walrond, Dorset Tennis

In Dorset, the “Participation and Volunteering” sub-committee of Dorset Tennis and Padel continues to support affiliated clubs by offering grants and guidance to boost participation. One of our key initiatives is the Open Court programme, led by committee member David Sanger at Southbourne Tennis Club. This year, we aimed to expand its reach county-wide.

To support this, we launched a Walking Tennis course in January at East Dorset Tennis Club. With promotion help from the local council and GP practices, the course attracted strong interest and has now become a permanent fixture. The inclusive nature of the sessions with no special kit required and rackets provided has enabled players of all abilities to join. One 89-year-old former player, recovering from a stroke, now participates weekly and enjoys post-session socialising at the club café. Another participant with a history of strokes has improved his mobility and regained confidence on court. Notably, two players have progressed from the course to full club membership. Nationwide Building Society also awarded the club a grant to help grow the programme further.

Additionally, we hosted a Volunteers Day on June 14th to celebrate and support key club volunteers. The event featured an on-court clinic with GB No.1 wheelchair tennis player Lucy Shuker, as well as walking and disability tennis sessions. LTA President Sandi Procter joined the day, leading a lively Q&A forum in the morning.

These efforts reflect our commitment to accessible and inclusive tennis across Dorset as hope this article inspires others!



Walking Tennis Continues to Go from Strength to Strength in Shropshire

By Fiona Jones, Tennis Shropshire

Walking Tennis is now firmly established in Shropshire, a county well-suited to the initiative, with over 25% of its population aged 65+, compared to the national average of 18%. Initial interest was sparked by a club forum led by Neil Bates from Hereford and Worcestershire. However, the real breakthrough came with a successful Inclusive Communities Fund grant, enabling the recruitment of two experienced coaches as Walking Tennis Ambassadors. They divided the county geographically and by target groups, working directly with clubs and coaches to launch sessions.



A valuable partnership with Age UK further boosted the initiative. Their local representative secured additional funding to launch sessions at two venues. With access to Age UK's extensive contact network and communications support, promotion efforts were significantly enhanced.

Depending on the club, sessions are either coach- or volunteer-led and attract a broad range of participants, from complete beginners to former players with health limitations. Some have even transitioned back into mainstream club tennis after regaining confidence and mobility. In response to growing interest, several clubs have introduced Walking Tennis memberships, and players have begun forming their own social groups, often making use of courts during quieter daytime hours. Currently, over a quarter of Shropshire clubs offer regular sessions or plan to do so. A new Walking Tennis League with 12 teams has launched, providing competitive opportunities and fostering community. The league is set to become a regular feature of the county's competition calendar.



How Lincolnshire Tennis are Empowering Youth Through Tennis Leadership

By Rachel Opie, Lincolnshire Tennis

Moving back to Lincolnshire, inspired by LTA activation events in 2022 following Team GB's achievements at the Billie Jean Cup, Lincolnshire Tennis have continued and built upon the successes of those Youth Leadership days.

Expanded now to involve both boys and girls in the event, we have been running our own Youth Leadership events throughout the county on a regular basis which are free to all secondary schools. Offering the opportunity to participate to as many schools and teachers as we can, we have held multiple events in Louth, Grantham, Lincoln and Boston. As time has progressed, we have built up a very strong team of coaches who deliver the material with skill, engaging the students and teachers with huge enthusiasm and inspiring them to take tennis back into their schools. We know that several students have now progressed on their coaching journey working with teachers and in Clubs supporting the activities of the younger children. One is just completing her Level 2 and looking forward to taking on Junior coaching at her Club. We also know that several schools who did not offer tennis in their curriculum are now actively teaching the sport and running after school Clubs.



Each day follows a similar structure: students engage with Tennis Leaders in the mornings while teachers attend the LTA Secondary Teachers training course led by an LTA-qualified tutor. In the afternoons, students complete the Competition module as teachers take part in a cardio tennis session designed to provide strategies for managing large groups in limited space. The smiles at the day's ends speak for themselves.

Pictures are from our most recent event held at Lincoln Tennis Academy. Our next event will be in Bourne during the summer.



WORKFORCE, VENUES, COMMUNITY AND INCLUSION

Warwickshire Aces: Empowering the next generation of girls

By Tom Barton, Warwickshire Tennis

Sticking with theme of young people, Warwickshire Tennis recently hosted its first 'Warwickshire Aces' training session. A two-day programme, bringing females aged 13-16 together to begin their leadership training. Delivered by LTA Tutor Lianne Candappa, alongside Warwickshire Tennis Board representative Holly Reid, the programme was well received with well over 24 applications. The County felt it was important to have a female coaching team leading the session, as this meant that the girls could relate to their tutors.

The aim of the programme is to encourage girls, not just from traditional tennis venues, to consider a career in sport and to develop essential leadership skills. All whilst becoming a good role model and learning how to help and look out for others.

The two sessions not only focused on court activity but also about the individual, in terms of their mindset and motivation, and how to look after their wellbeing.

Warwickshire Tennis is committed to growing its female workforce and has pledged to offer a bursary to all 24 applicants when they reach the age to attend their level 1 training. We aim to repeat this programme annually, creating a legacy to grow our workforce.

The leaders, who completed the training for free, will now support the delivery of several county events to gain experience and insight to ignite their passion further. The skills they gain will help develop their leadership style and confidence in assisting with County activities.



Empowering Girls Through Tennis in Kent

By Andrea Kitchener, Kent Tennis

To celebrate Women's History Month 2025, Kent Tennis launched a pioneering girl's project aimed at empowering young girls through tennis and leadership development. The project tackles gender disparities in sport by promoting confidence, wellbeing, and coaching pathways for girls.

Sport England data highlights the challenge: 55% of girls aged 13–16 don't meet daily activity guidelines, and 64% drop out of sport before age 16, with girls from ethnically diverse backgrounds facing even greater participation barriers. Kent Tennis' girls project offers structured tennis experiences, inclusive mentorship, and leadership training to help bridge this gap.

St John's Catholic Comprehensive, chosen for its strong EDI values and nearby community courts, enrolled 27 Year 9 girls. Despite having over 1,100 students, tennis was not part of the PE curriculum, making this a significant step forward.



The three-phase model begins with Step Into Tennis, a 1.5-hour session combining skill-building, team challenges, and discussions on female representation in coaching. Next, students took part in a Park Tennis Event, leading tennis activities for over 70 primary pupils at a refurbished park site. Finally, participants completed the LTA Youth Tennis Leaders course, developing key skills in teamwork, event management, and career awareness.

Looking beyond the pilot, the project aims to boost female representation in coaching, supporting students toward a Level 1 qualification. Additional opportunities include a weekly club, continued volunteering at local events, and involvement in the Kent Tennis Inclusive Festival.

Opening Doors Through Tennis: Supporting Young Refugees in Kent

By the Kent Tennis Team

Staying with Kent Tennis, last year, just over...

100,000

people claimed asylum in the UK. As the primary entry point, Kent manages a significant refugee and asylum-seeking population.

The three-phase model begins with Step Into Tennis, a 1.5-hour session combining skill-building, team challenges, and discussions on female representation in coaching. Next, students took part in a Park Tennis Event, leading tennis activities for over 70 primary pupils at a refurbished park site. Finally, participants completed the LTA Youth Tennis Leaders course, developing key skills in teamwork, event management, and career awareness.

Looking beyond the pilot, the project aims to boost female representation in coaching, supporting students toward a Level 1 qualification. Additional opportunities include a weekly club, continued volunteering at local events, and involvement in the Kent Tennis Inclusive Festival.



Vanessa Oakes, a Kent Tennis Inclusion Mentor, approached the Well-being and Activities Manager at KRAN with an offer to start a tennis programme to complement the existing sporting activities KRAN already provides. Led by Kent Coach of the Year, Chris Hollands from Hythe LTC, the first session at The Three Hills Leisure Centre in Folkestone involved 13 refugees. These sessions aim to provide volunteering opportunities for the young refugees with an aim of helping them to become SERVES Activators. The sessions offer a warm welcome and support them as part of starting to integrate them into local tennis clubs.

From Ball Girl to World Champion: Spotlighting Georgia Routledge

By Heather Bottomley, Norfolk Tennis



At Norfolk Tennis, we're proud to support players of all backgrounds and abilities. One standout story comes from a local player, Georgia Routledge, whose journey exemplifies resilience, passion, and progress in the sport.

Her love for tennis began at age six, watching her sister play while acting as a ball girl. By eight, she was told the only competitive route available was via wheelchair tennis, despite never having used one. Choosing to continue playing on her feet, she entered local tournaments, knowing her disability presented barriers and that a competitive future seemed uncertain.

That changed in 2023, when she attended the UK's first Para Standing Tennis Festival at the National Tennis Centre. For the first time, she met others like her, players with disabilities who could compete standing, without sacrificing mobility. It was a pivotal moment, igniting a new chapter in her tennis journey.

Since then, she's competed nationally and internationally, reaching the finals in all eight tournaments entered. In 2024, she made history by winning the first-ever ITF-sanctioned Para Standing World Championships and was a National Finalist at the LTA Awards after winning our county award.

Her story highlights why the development of Para Standing Tennis matters. It opens long-overdue pathways for athletes whose abilities don't fit traditional classifications and gives them a real shot at fulfilling their potential.

Celebrating Coaching Excellence in Middlesex

By the Middlesex Tennis Team

Recently, Middlesex Tennis, in partnership with our Coach Development Centre, UCoach, proudly hosted its inaugural Coach Conference at Virgin Active Riverside in Chiswick. 70 coaches from across the county gathered for a high-energy day of learning, sharing, and inspiration led by a fantastic line-up of seven expert speakers.



The event opened with a warm welcome from Lorraine Ristic (UCoach) and Andrew Lewandowski (Middlesex Tennis), who set the tone for a collaborative and energising experience.

Highlights included Matt Little, long-time S&C coach to Andy Murray, who delivered an engaging session on motivation and mindset in junior development, complete with practical demos that got everyone moving. Sergio Gomez-Cuesta shared expert insights on coaching biomechanics for adaptable skills, while Suzanne Williams explored the link between movement assessments and physical conditioning.

Turning to the digital space, Dylan Gee, a coach and content creator with 700k+ followers, shared how storytelling through social media can attract and inspire younger players. Mark Bullock, alongside player Lily Mills, championed inclusion in tennis through accessible content, reinforcing the power of representation.

Alistair Higham challenged coaches to help players think more tactically and manage match momentum, and keynote speaker Mark Hayden, LTA National Coach, led a dynamic on-court session on 10U player development, supported by four rising Middlesex stars.

With practical takeaways, a vibrant community spirit, and a shared passion for coach development, the day was a fantastic milestone for Middlesex Tennis. Coaches left feeling energised, better connected, and equipped with fresh ideas to bring back to their venues. This event marked the beginning of an exciting new chapter in our coach development journey, and we are excited to build on this momentum in 2026.



Harrow Weald LTC Powering Community and Planet

By the Middlesex Tennis Team

Sticking with Middlesex, Harrow Weald Lawn Tennis Club (HWLRC) is proving that even a small, volunteer-run tennis club can make a big impact, both for its community and the planet.

With a proud history dating back to 1901, and preparing to celebrate its 125th anniversary next year, the club continues to combine environmental action with community service. In April 2025, HWLTC became the first tennis club in the area to install solar panels following the energy saving LED lighting fitted in 2023. This move will significantly cut the club's carbon footprint and reduce costs, freeing up resources to reinvest in its members and community. Harrow East MP Bob Blackman and Deputy Mayor Anjana Patel attended the launch, alongside Middlesex Tennis Chair Phil Veasey and colleague Sangeeta Arora, who both joined the celebrations recognising the club's leadership in community sport and sustainability.



The club's contribution extends far beyond environmental action. Each week, it supports Help 4 The Homeless, enabling the charity to prepare over 150 meals in the clubhouse kitchen for people in need across London. Closer to home, it opens its doors as a "Warm Hub", providing a safe, welcoming space for residents who may be struggling with isolation, cold, or rising living costs. The club also supports the Enderley Road Patients' Association (ERPA) and its "Friendship Group", which meets regularly at the clubhouse to offer social connection for older or vulnerable people.

At the heart of it all is 96-year-old HWLTC President Heather Bickerton, a member for 73 years, who continues to inspire with her active involvement. Looking ahead to its anniversary year, the club plans to expand with many exciting ideas including its inclusive offer with disability tennis and pickleball, ensuring even more people can enjoy the benefits of tennis for years to come.

LTA Safe to Play Safeguarding Conference: 4 October 2025

By Malgorzata Grzyb, on behalf of Safeguarding and Integrity DTAG

In support of the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) Keeping Your Child Safe in Sport Week 2025, the LTA is proud to host a day dedicated to safeguarding in tennis and padel.

The LTA Safe To Play Annual Safeguarding Conference 2025 will offer a wide range of topics and expert speakers, promising to be an informative and engaging event for everyone involved in safeguarding across tennis and padel.

Date: Saturday 4th October 2025
Time: 9:00am – 3:15pm
Format: Virtual
Cost: Free



Safeguarding in tennis is a shared responsibility, which is why this conference is open to everyone involved in our sport - including, but not limited to, safeguarding and welfare officers, volunteers, coaches, officials, committee members, and parents. The conference offers:

- Inspiring keynote speakers
- Practical workshops to share and learn best practices
- Access to a valuable bank of safeguarding resources
- Recordings of most sessions available after the event

Plus, attendees can gain CPD credits and extend their safeguarding training records. 3 CPD points + 1 year training credit (for officials and coaches who complete 3+ hours). 1 year added to safeguarding record (for welfare & county safeguarding officers). The above also applies to sessions watched after the conference, so please register even if you can't attend on the day - this will ensure that you have access to the recordings.

You can find out more about the day, as well as details of how to register by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Bench2Bench Walk Brings Mental Health Support to Welsh Tennis Venues

By Simon Clarke, Tennis Wales

During Mental Health Awareness week, several Tennis Wales and LTA colleagues participated in the Speakeasy Club Bench2Bench Walk led by LTA Councillor Simon Clarke. The walk covered 26 miles around different tennis venues in Cardiff and the Vale, to provide free mental health resources in every sports venue in Wales. The walk highlighted the power of talking, the importance of community and sharing activities with like-minded people. The cardio tennis session at mile 17 was a challenge for sure! There were 6 pink Speakeasy benches enroute. The team visited several venues, including tennis clubs at Dinas Powys, Whitchurch, Rhiwbina, Heath, Cardiff Met, Roath Park, Mackintosh, Penarth Athletic Park, Penarth and Windsor. A heartfelt thank you to everyone involved and good luck to Speakeasy Club for their 2 further walks later in the year.



Get involved in Give. Set. Match.

By The LTA Tennis Foundation Team

Give. Set. Match. - A Tennis Charity Challenge in aid of LTA Tennis Foundation is a brand-new opportunity for venues to help improve lives through tennis, and ensure that every child, young person, and adult can have access to the unique and life-changing benefits that tennis offers. Give. Set. Match. combines the thrill of competition and the chance to win some amazing prizes for your club.

How Give. Set. Match. works

Between April and September 2025, we are asking venues in Britain to hold a competition with 50% of the player entry fees being donated to the LTA Tennis Foundation, to support their life changing work.

Venues can host any style of competition they would like, and we are encouraging them to add on other types of fundraising activity on the day such as a raffle, a BBQ, or offering portions of strawberries and cream for donations.

What's in it for you?

For those taking part in Give. Set. Match., whether a venue or individual player, you have the chance to win some truly amazing prizes:

For individual winners

- All players who win the venue competition will go into a prize draw to have the chance to win:
- A tennis masterclass at the National Tennis Centre, in Roehampton with the LTA's Performance team (maximum eight players) with lunch provided
- A pair of day tickets for the HSBC Championship at The Queen's Club in 2026 (three pairs in total to be won)
- New tennis equipment and clothing for two players only (up to the value of £300 per player)
- A new tennis racket, up to the value of £100 each (five in total to be won)

For venues

- All participating venues will go into a prize draw to have the chance to win:
- A tennis masterclass at the National Tennis Centre, Roehampton, with the LTA's performance team (maximum eight players) with lunch provided.
- £1,000 for tennis equipment
- £500 for tennis equipment for your junior programme

The prize draw will be made on 1st November 2025, and winners will be contacted directly. Register now to win by clicking below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

LTA Tennis Foundation (LTA TF) launches Annual Report at the House of Lords

On Tuesday 6 May, The LTA TF launched its 2024 Annual Report at the House of Lords. The event brought together over 140 guests, including MPs, charity partners, and leaders from the sports development sector, to celebrate LTA TF's growing impact.

LTA TF is the LTA's official charity with a mission to improve lives through tennis. Since its launch, LTA TF has awarded £2.9 million in grants to 36 organisations, reaching nearly 35,000 people and supporting the training of 700 coaches, leaders, and volunteers.



In 2024 alone, it funded over 250 equipment packs and more than 1,200 school vouchers, helping an estimated 314,000 young people get involved in tennis.

Facilities investment remains a key focus for LTA TF, with £20.5 million invested since 2019 across various projects, including the Park Tennis Project, Quick Access Loans, and Transforming Scottish Indoor Tennis.

The event wasn't just about figures – it was about stories. Guests heard from young people involved in the Beyond the Baseline programme, facilitated by former Paralympian Louise Hunt-Skelley, who shared how tennis and mentorship helped boost their confidence and outlook. Other speakers included community leaders from Achieve More Scotland, Krimz Girls Youth Club, and Butterfly Tennis, who highlighted how representation in tennis is vital and how it is breaking down barriers and building stronger, more inclusive communities.

Interactive activities from LTA TF funded partner The Change Foundation added a hands-on element, using tennis to explore themes around mental wellbeing and emotional resilience.

Baroness Lister closed the event by emphasising the importance of making tennis accessible to all. As Tom Gibbins, Head of Foundation Development, summed up: "Hearing from those directly impacted is always powerful." The LTA TF's work is clearly making a difference – and this is just the beginning. Read more about the launch event: [HERE](#) and read more about the impact LTA TF is having: [HERE](#).



Grass court season highlights from the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust (DMTT)

By Gilly English, Dan Maskell Tennis Trust

The Wimbledon Dinner – East India Club

We are delighted to share that, through a collaboration between the East India Club Tennis Section and King's College London, DMTT was selected as the charity partner for a fundraising dinner at the East India Club. Held on 27th of June, "The Wimbledon Dinner" was a great success raising over £10,000 from fundraising during the evening. The 80 guests were entertained by our President Dame Elaine Paige who came as a special guest, alongside Barry Cowan. One of the Trust's Vice-Presidents Marcus Buckland was Master of Ceremonies and in addition to the fundraising part of the evening, Marcus chatted to Elaine about her 60 year career in showbiz and 15 years as DMTT President as well as her recent Damehood announced in the King's Birthday Honours List. Barry Cowan, former British player and now a tennis pundit and commentator gave his insight and views on the Wimbledon Championships. We hope that this evening will mark the start of an exciting fundraising partnership for the DMTT which can be shared as good practice.



The Dan Maskell Tennis Trust – Golf Challenge 2025

The 26th of June marked a special day at the Royal Automobile Club in Epsom where the 25th Dan Maskell Golf Day took place. 21 teams were present to celebrate the anniversary. At the time of writing, the final fundraising total is still to be determined but the target was to reach £25,000 to match the number of years the Day has been running.

Coin Toss Representative gives advice to The Princess of Wales at Wimbledon



DMTT was selected by the Wimbledon Foundation to nominate a representative to perform the coin toss for the Ladies Wheelchair Singles on the final Saturday at Wimbledon, with 2025 marking the 20th anniversary of wheelchair tennis at The Championships. 8-year-old Lydia Lowe was selected, and her story can be seen [here](#) as well as her [behind the scenes](#) on the day of the coin toss. An unexpected highlight of Lydia's day was to meet The Princess of Wales which appeared in the media the next day. You can watch Lydia giving HRH advice [here](#). If you would like further details of what DMTT does to help disabled people to play tennis, and how you could help please visit our website: www.dmtt.org.uk

Padel meets Wheelchair Basketball in Cheshire

By Jayne Huxley-Grantbam, Cheshire Tennis

On a gloriously sunny spring day, some of the expert movers in wheelchair basketball from the Manchester Revolution Basketball team, were invited by Cheshire Tennis to try wheelchair Padel at the Manchester Padel Club.

The aim was to increase awareness of wheelchair padel in the hope that more wheelchair users might want to 'have a go'. We wanted their feedback and to showcase that the game is a lot of fun both for adult and junior chair users.

The players were shown the basics by expert coaches, Dave Thomas and Leo Padovani who very quickly realised that the on-court movement skills of the players meant they were able to play the game very quickly – even mastering the off the glass shots in a relatively short space of time.



All the players loved the experience and continued play long after the session ended. The positive feedback from them was interesting. Having to push on the astro and make quick, short adjustments is good training for basketball, and the fun and competitive nature of the sport makes for a great team bonding exercise.

The good news is that they have continued to play. We look forward to seeing them together with more wheelchair players on court in Cheshire soon!

PADEL

Wear it Pink! Padel tournament for Breast Cancer

By the Avon Tennis Team

In Christmas 2024, Mandy Stonier, who is a volunteer for Avon Tennis and a member of the INSPIRE 2 cohort, heard that a very good 'padel mate' Kath Dawson was diagnosed with breast cancer, and it would take most of 2025 to fight the battle.

Moving forwards to May 2025, 21 amazing women aged 14-76 years took part in a fun Padel Tournament in Bristol, to not only give Kath a HUGE amount of support but to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now who are an important charity that does such incredible work.



Mandy said 'I would recommend to any club or community to organise a 'women's' only event like this. We got together an organising team, galvanised the players, booked padel courts (thank you Rocket Padel for giving us the time and discounted court rates!), and we rocked in our pink outfits!

Special thanks were given to Hilary Damant, Jenny Powell (our Tropic Ambassador who donated her sales commission), and Kate Hood for providing refreshments at the end of the tournament. So far, we have raised over £460. Here is our Just giving page, with Kath's story on there and she managed to play for the whole two hours of our tournament, please donate if you can. You can donate via the link [HERE](#).



British Universities & Colleges Sport Tennis 2024-25

By Sophie Kitson, BUCS

2,884 students from 81 institutions competed in 2,070 fixtures across 67 leagues and knockout competitions within the British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) programme during the 24/25 academic year - stretching from Plymouth to Aberdeen!

Eliz Maloney completed the BUCS Clean Sweep, Paralympian Abbie Breakwell secured her fifth consecutive BUCS title, and Nottingham Men's 1st Team won the National Championship for the first time since 1954!

Super Weekends brought together the top 6 men's & women's National League teams at Loughborough and the National Tennis Centre. Stirling claimed the Men's title, while Loughborough took the Women's.

BUCS Individual Championships saw Maloney (Loughborough) and Phoenix Weir (Nottingham) take the Singles titles. Doubles victories went to Stirling's Liam Hignett & Robert Cowley and Loughborough's Eliz Maloney & Megan Davies. James Shaw (Nottingham Trent) secured his second wheelchair title, with Breakwell (Loughborough) sealing her fifth!

Workforce development continued with new student-only courses for University Tennis Activators, Competition Organisers and Line/Chair Umpires, along with several volunteering opportunities at BUCS events.

Internationally, GB Students claimed silver at the Master'U BNP Paribas Championships.

British University Tennis continues to thrive across all levels - from recreational to elite. Follow @BritUniTennis on Instagram or visit the LTA and BUCS websites to learn more!



Breaking Down Barriers and Building Communities

By Victoria Koypass, King's College London Tennis Club

Staying with university tennis, the 2025 King's College London Student Union (KCLSU) Awards was more than a celebration for KCL Tennis – it was a powerful reminder of the impact of university sport. Our 'Inclusive By Design' series, named 2025 KCLSU 'Event of the Year,' brought workshops, panels, and outreach initiatives to increase participation among underserved groups and create meaningful social change across London.



Highlights included a Black History Month panel hosted by LTA National Young Person of the Year, David Nana, where speakers Arum Akom and Richard Sackey-Addo shared their lived experiences, leadership lessons and stories of breaking barriers. In partnership with The Queen's Club Foundation, our Disability History Month event doubled attendance from last year, with expert coaches adapting tennis for visual, mobility, and neurological impairments. A visually impaired tennis session later introduced 16 students to the sport through raised lines and specialist equipment. Our LGBTQ+ Tennis Festival welcomed 62 players from King's and the South London Smashers for a day of engaging tennis, and Women's History Month closed the series with 80 attendees having the opportunity to hear from tennis trailblazers, Sabrina Stocker and Ingrid Lofdahl Bentzer.

Alongside David Nana being awarded the 2025 LTA National Young Person of the Year, KCL Tennis President Jonathon Dawes was also recognised with two major honours: the King's College London Honorary Life Membership for his role in the series and mentoring students, and the prestigious 2025 King's Alumni 'Emerging Leader' Award – previously awarded to figures such as Sir Keir Starmer and Dina Asher-Smith – for his services to tennis at King's and across Great Britain. Follow our journey or get involved on Instagram: @kcltennis



Tennis Industry Association's Spring Forum 2025

By Phil Sandilands, TIA

The third annual Tennis Industry Association's (TIA) Spring Forum hosted by TIA Business Partner Pinsent Masons LLP took place in May.

Over 70 delegates attended this event representing operators, suppliers, and organisations involved in tennis, padel, and pickleball. This year, its main theme was to highlight the challenges around sustainability, but it also included sessions on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) in sport and the value of a thriving volunteer workforce.

Richard Shaw and Colin Corline of Sport and Play Construction Association spoke about the importance of delivering quality standards in sports construction. Bella Phillips of Pinsent Masons outlined the opportunities created from the growth in technology and the new set of challenges for people in charge of sport of harnessing AI.

Tom Vinall of the Atlantic Racquet Centre highlighted how his club had identified, developed and retained a strong and effective volunteer workforce and provided some top tips for tennis and padel operators to consider. Owen James, England Golf Sustainability Manager, looked at some of the similarities between golf and tennis clubs in sustainability and the need for clubs to diversify their sporting offer.

David Burditt of the Roehampton Club described how the club has developed a practical sustainability plan and the benefits that had already been achieved, with the vital support of its whole membership. Finally, a Sustainability Panel, chaired by Iain Lancaster of the LTA, including Louise Price of Price of Bath, Owen James, David Burditt, Richard Shaw and Désirée Fields of Pinsent Masons, highlighted progress on sustainability in sport and tennis and how we can all play a positive part in this area.



An Update from the Tennis Parents Community

By Kay Gilbert, Tennis Parents Community

The recording of our Q&A in April with Richard Nunn, the LTA's Anti-Doping & Integrity Officer, is one worth sharing with your older county players & their parents, and via the RPDC network. Catch up by clicking below.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Richard explains the policies, what age & stage the topic becomes relevant, how to find out if supplements & medicines contain banned substances, how testing works, the roles of the different bodies, and some myth busting around recent high-profile cases.

Meanwhile, on the Facebook Group, parents have been talking about supporting neurodiverse players & emotional dysregulation; the assessment framework for GCSE Sports Science; how to nurture talent below 2yrs old in a fun way; eligibility for the ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors; what the tennis world would look like without a junior ranking system; practical tips on how to prepare players for rain during tournaments; and more.

In a recent survey on the group, 42% of respondents said that they'd heard about our group from another parent, 36% via social media, 13% via the LTA website. Only 2% had heard about us via their county, 3% via their coach, 1% via an official, and 0% via a venue. This gives me much hope that you can help us to reach even more parents!

It was great to present the benefits of better support for tennis parents to County Performance Coaches at recent seminars at the NTC. My talk explored what the top priorities for parents are, how we can encourage them to have a relationship with tennis beyond just being a customer of a coach or official, and how our sport can be enriched by accessing parents' expertise and influence. Many thanks to Nick Weal & Dave Kirby for this opportunity. If anyone is interested in having me present to either coaches or parents, please do reach out to me – kaygilbert@btinternet.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

- **Quick Access Loans:** Did you know that Quick Access loans are funded by the LTA Tennis Foundation and £3.5m of funding was allocated in 2024 across 31 projects in clubs and venues across Britain. This delivered: 250,000 new hours created for tennis, Total investment - £3.5m, 17 new covered tennis and padel courts, 78 new floodlit tennis and padel courts
- **Schools:** Did you know the LTA Tennis Foundation funds £250 vouchers for schools to spend on equipment or group coaching. There were 1,256 vouchers allocated in 2024
- **Grant Funded Partners:** Did you know the LTA Tennis Foundation has awarded grants to almost 40 organisations through its Grant Making Framework to help improve lives through tennis. A full list of current charity partners can be found in the latest [Annual Report](#).
- **Real Living Wage:** Did you know the LTA is a real living wage employer and the first NGB to be accredited by the Living Wage Foundation? For more information on the real living wage, please visit: [HERE](#)
- **Equal prize money:** The LTA are committed to equalising men's and women's prize money at the HSBC Championships (Queen's) and the Lexus Eastbourne Open, no later than 2029. The HSBC Championships was the highest paying WTA 500 event of its draw size in the world this year.
- **Tennis Scotland:** Did you know that Tennis Scotland recorded another year of unprecedented growth in 2024? For more information, see their annual report [HERE](#).
- **Wimbledon 2025:** Did you know that at this year's Championships, all five of the main draw finals were umpired by female officials: Eva Asderaki-Moore (Greece) took the chair for the Mixed Doubles Final, Louise Engzell (Sweden) officiated the Gentlemen's Doubles Final, Miriam Bley (Germany) presided over the Ladies' Singles Final. On Sunday it was an all-British affair: Kelly Rask was in the chair for the Ladies' Doubles Final and Alison Hughes MBE (UK) umpired the unforgettable Gentlemen's Singles Final. A remarkable milestone in the sport and fantastic to see such talented officials at the highest level of our sport.

ONE TEAM BULLETIN

**NEXT EDITION DEADLINE
FOR SUBMISSIONS IS
9th OCTOBER 2025**

Send your contributions and feedback on this
edition to alyx.wilde@lta.org.uk