



AVON TENNIS



LTA & AVON TENNIS AWARDS 2024

The WINNERS are

Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations for the 2025 LTA Tennis Awards. The standard was again very high.



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Volunteer of the Year Award

This award went to **Emily Churchill** from Downend and Frenchay Tennis Club. Emily has captained the club's women's and mixed teams and also taken on the role of social secretary, organising and running fund-raising, charity and social events.



Club of the Year Award

Sodbury Tennis Club won this award. The club has close to 400 social and playing members but only four courts and the committee, coaching and court maintenance teams work tirelessly to ensure the facilities are kept in good shape and available for all.



Coach of the Year Award

Andy Gray from Saltford Tennis Club was named Coach of the Year. Andy joined Saltford two years ago and has built up a full programme from scratch. He now coaches 120 players aged from four to 80 including walking tennis and sessions for neurodiverse and disabled children. Lewis Fishlock from David Lloyd Emersons Green was highly commended in this category.





Competition of the Year Award

The Competition of the Year Award went to **Sodbury Tennis Club's Competition Team**.

The team runs multiple competitions throughout the year from charity and fun events through to box leagues, walking tennis and the annual club championships.



Official of the Year Award



This award was won by **Graham Budd**.

Graham has been a referee for over 20 years. He supports a variety of events for adults and children and is well respected by both parents and players.



Park Venue of the Year Award

Thornbury Tennis Club was named Park Venue of the Year. The club has joined forces with the Town Council to refurbish two adjoining public courts and run them as Pay and Play venues, extending the reach of the game to a wider and more diverse audience.

Performance Coach of the Year Award

The Performance Coach of the Year Award went to **Ali Blackett** from the University of Bristol.

Ali is an LTA Level 4 senior performance coach and helps to develop talented youngsters at county, regional and national levels.





University of the Year Award

The **University of Bath** won this Award. In addition to a wide range of student programmes, the university runs community and inclusive sessions and works with local schools and clubs to develop the game.



Young Person of the Year Award

This Award went to **Emily Leask** from Westbury Park Tennis Club.



Emily completed her Level 1 coaching course last year and has made a big impact on the club's juniors, who are inspired by both her personality and playing ability

School of the Year Award

The School of the Year was **Bromley Heath Junior School** in Bristol where tennis is an integral part of the curriculum during Term 4 and also offered an after-school club in Terms 5 and 6. LTA-trained staff members and local coaches provide the tuition.



Bromley Heath Junior School

Tennis Opened Up Award

The Tennis Opened Up Award was won by **Dave Gibbon** from David Lloyd Long Ashton.

Dave has shown perseverance and passion in developing sessions for young people with SEND, giving the programme greater prominence and enlisting help from volunteers.



Players of the Year Award

The Olive Brown Trophy for the Avon Tennis Player of the Year was shared by two players from the triumphant Women's Winter County Cup Open team – **Nehir Tuna and Isabelle Britton** - who both had 100 per cent records, winning all five of their matches.



Team of the Year Award

The Avon Tennis Team of the Year is the **Women's County Cup Open Team.**

The team finished top of Division Two with an unbeaten record and will compete in the top division this year – the first time Avon has had a women's team in Division One.

Nehir Tuna,
Isabelle Britton,
Sophia Kovacheva,
Gabriele Cogliatore,
Alice Zelle,
Ali Blackett,
Emily Webley-Smith
Lucy Forward.
Alexia Marsh



UNSUNG HEROES

Four people won Avon Tennis Unsung Hero Awards. These awards celebrate those who don't fall strictly within the LTA awards nomination criteria, but deserve recognition.

Patrick Dean is treasurer of Westbury Park Tennis Club and has overseen the resurfacing of the courts and is part of a team planning a clubhouse upgrade project.

Gavin Howell from Sodbury Tennis Club is the club's Mr Fixit, turning his hand to a variety of tasks that allow members to enjoy the facilities to the full.

Alan Gammon from Somer Valley Tennis Club has been on the club's committee for five years and in that time has broadened his responsibilities across a range of tasks, despite battling with personal health issues



Jody Cockcroft is chairman and membership secretary of Winterbourne Tennis Club and led a major project to resurface the courts and install new floodlights.

