



# AVON TENNIS



## NOVEMBER 2024

[Avon Tennis website](#)

This Newsletter is sent to the Club Main Contact of Avon Tennis Clubs.

Please ensure this is distributed across your tennis club community. If you can't see images, please right click if asked to do so in the pop up box. We hope the new email system is working and this newsletter reaches you.

### A NOTE FROM .....

## Pete Bendall - Avon Tennis President & Legend

1/ I've decided to put my introduction to a little rhyme,

Well it's a bit more fun and it helps to pass the time,

2/ It must be 65 years that I've been involved in tennis,

Introduced to it by my Mum, although most assume it was father Denis.

3/ Too long some might say, playing tennis on a court,

But when you're having such fun why should I cut it short.

4/ I've been asked to name my favourite player, well that's quite a task,

Because I love players of today and also from the past.

5/ Rocket Rod, Bjorn Borg and the great Arthur Ashe.

And I can't miss Roger, Rafa, or Andy Murray, cos I'll face a backlash.



8/ The Williams sisters have to be credited with changing the woman's game

Now to the future there's Gauf, Alcaraz & Sinner to add to the wall of fame

9/ That's enough about players let's move on to other things

I guess my only forte is the energy that I always try to bring.

10/ A lifetime spent teaching PE & tennis to many a girl & boy,

6/ Then Pistol Pete, Martina Hingis and Navratilova,

Then add some funsters Monfils, Nastase, Leconte and still the list isn't over,

7/ But it's not all about titles, but to the game what did they bring?

And the leader in the women's game has to be Billie Jean King.

Giving back to me such fulfilment, cos I know it brings me so much joy.

11/ I'm not sure why, but my major gift is the people that I seem to inspire,

I really don't know how or why? but I hope it doesn't expire. 😊

## CLUBS/VENUES



**October Coffee & Chat** for club volunteers and coaches was well attended by 30 people, which was a great representation of the interest and thirst for knowledge about our topic which was Open Court & introducing Disability Tennis to your club or venue.

We received valuable input from [Jonny Fenner](#) (Access Sport), [Richard Colman](#) (Wesport), [Julie Jones](#) (LTA), and [Andrew Nixon](#) (Happy Lane Fund). County volunteers and coaches were also able to share best practices and ideas on running walking tennis sessions, obtaining grants for new projects, and strategies to retain and maintain existing programs.

Opening up tennis to everyone and being willing to embrace all members of our community is vital for ensuring tennis is available and accessible. Avon Tennis is committed to keeping this at the forefront of its activities within the county.

If you need any more information, please contact Rachel Harland on [opencourt@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:opencourt@avontennis.org.uk)

**The next Coffee & Chat will be in January 2025** – more details to follow.

## Inaugural Walking Tennis Group

Well done to the team at Greville Smythe Tennis Club who have started a walking tennis weekly session on Thursdays @10am. Added bonus is its FREE to attend! Great work guys.



## EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

### Winter County Cup 22nd - 24th November 2024.



Our ladies team - Sophia, Izzy, Alice, Nehir, Gabi, Ali, Lucy & Emily (not pictured)

The Women played in Group 2b in Bristol (a nice change to have a home venue!). Great results with the team winning against Cheshire, Essex and Hampshire & Isle of Wight and as a result topping the group. Therefore, for the first time ever (I believe) the team are **now promoted to Group 1**. A fantastic team effort but special mention to Izzy and Nehir who both won 5 of their matches out of 5.

Meanwhile the Men's team were in Grantham (Group 4b) playing against Lincolnshire, Somerset and Staffordshire, narrowly losing two rubbers (4-5) but overcoming Lincolnshire yesterday to finish 3rd and maintain their position

## JUNIOR PERFORMANCE

### Successful County Trials

A huge well done to all players who attended county trials on 3rd & 10th November. It is such a great achievement to be recognised by your coach as one of the best players at your club.

All the county coaches were really impressed with the level shown on the day and thoroughly enjoyed seeing everyone play. There was plenty of natural talent on show and although the numbers attending were lower than in previous years the quality that was on court was superb.

Remember, we hold trials for 8U -11U's every year and coaches can nominate a player they feel are the right level for county, anytime during the season. The door is always open.

"You always want to win. That is why you play tennis, because you love the sport and try to be the best you can at it" Roger Federer

## OPEN COURT/EDI

### Walking Tennis Intercounty Tournament

Oxstalls Sports Park in Gloucester On Thursday 7th November 2024



There was lots of fun and laughter, tea, and biscuits at our inaugural walking tennis 'fun' intercounty tournament at Oxstalls Park Sports Complex. A wonderful indoor tennis facility, which meant we didn't have to worry about the weather!

Neil Bates, the Open Court Lead for Hereford and Worcester, and a great ambassador for walking tennis, organised the tournament and ensured it ran smoothly. Each participant played with a different partner for 4 games and kept their score. After 4 rounds the scores were added up and the winners and runners-up were declared. A big thank you to Neil and Sarah for organising such a fun event, all our team thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Watch out for more events coming soon.

### Ability Tennis Fun Tournament in partnership with Access Sport Acez Programme

Cotham Park Tennis Club On Thursday 31st October 2024



The sun shone for our fun tournament during half term. 4 participants, Rhys, Joseph, Charlotte, and Billy and 4 volunteers too - so everyone worked hard in pairs on several different activities keeping their own scores. It was quite challenging and everyone concentrated so well.

Thanks to Jonny, Llio, Simon, and Adam for their support in making it a fun day for all.

Thanks also to The Happy Lane Fund for the support to sustain the Ability sessions running from time to time throughout the year.



## COACHES

Another fantastic morning on Thursday 14th November at the Avon coach forum run by the LTA. Thanks to everyone who came and participated on and off the court, there was a great number of coaches attending. Special mention and thanks to our own Patrick Lodge as one of the LTA tutors.





Don't forget to check out the CPD available to you and your coaching team [here](#).

## SAFEGUARDING

# Still time to be a Young Person's Welfare Ambassador

The LTA Young Person's Welfare Ambassador Programme (YPWA) is an initiative by the LTA to integrate young people into safeguarding and welfare work within tennis venues. If you have young people in your household or club who would be interested in being part of the 2025 TPWA Programme, see [here](#) for more details. Nominations close 30th November 2024, so be quick and get applying. More information below:

**BE A YOUNG PERSON'S  
WELFARE AMBASSADOR**

**Young Person's Welfare Ambassadors, or YPWAs, are young people aged 14-24 who play an important role in promoting safeguarding within their venues. The 12-month programme supports YPWAs to:**

- Raise awareness of safeguarding and welfare issues amongst members and players
- Gather feedback and become a voice for young people
- Provide an important link between venue committees and children and young people

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?**

- The opportunity to take a more active role in your club
- Make a difference by being a voice for young people
- Meet other young people from across Britain who also want to make a difference
- Gain confidence and develop a range of new skills such as public speaking and presentation skills – we'll give you training to support with this!
- Get valuable experience which could translate into future careers such as social work, police, education and sport
- Written reference upon request to support UCAS, job or college applications
- Printed certificate
- Completed hours and work signed off for Duke of Edinburgh Awards
- Ballot entry to win a pair of tickets for LTA major events on completion of the tasks and circulating the final survey
- A hoodie to promote your role at your venue

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please speak to your venue Welfare Officer, coach or another member of the venue committee.

If you're aged 17 or younger, please speak with your parent or carer first and ask them to help you discuss.

**EXAMPLES OF WORK COMPLETED**

- NEW NOTICEBOARDS, SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE MESSAGING
- NEW JUNIOR COMMITTEE SUPPORTING THE VENUE
- VENUE FUNDAY, SAFEGUARDING QUIZ AND MASCOTS

**WHAT THE ROLE ENTAILS**

- Work alongside your venue's Welfare Officer
- Share the LTA safeguarding survey with your members and venue users
- Complete some short online training
- Complete tasks to promote safeguarding and welfare at your venue
- Receive ongoing support from the LTA Safeguarding team
- Network with other YPWAs

**“ ”**

A wonderful experience with lots of learning, fun, and raising awareness of the welfare of young people.

Emily, YPWA

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## AVON LEAGUES

# Winter Leagues Underway

## Avon Youth League - Winter 2024-25

7 September - 23 March

Maggie Tyrrell

### Avon Youth League

Get the lowdown on our up-and-coming superstars. With a whopping 37 leagues, it's mind-blowing stuff. Let's see who's stealing the spotlight and serving aces on the court!

[Click here](#)

## Avon Tennis Winter League 2024/25

18 October - 30 April

Ali Taverner

### Avon Tennis Winter League

Are you ready to see if your team is dominating the league? Well, what are you waiting for?! Click that button below and let's see how your squad is kicking butt on the court!

[Click here](#)

## UPCOMING DATES

- \* 30th November - Deadline for Avon Tennis Membership
- \* 24th December - 1st December 2025 - Avon Tennis Office Closed for Christmas
- \* 31st December - Deadlines for LTA Venue Registration & LTA Award Nominations
- \* 22nd January 2025 - Avon Tennis AGM

## AND FINALLY!

**Stuck For a Unique Christmas Gift? Then look no further!**





## Personalised gifts that your tennis obsessed family members will love.

Price of Bath are a small, family run company who have been making balls, here in Britain, for over 90 years and crossing 3 generations.

Derek Price was the brains behind the first ever larger and lighter 75mm Mini Red Tennis Ball for the LTA. The idea was so successful, the ball was adopted worldwide by the ITF and has contributed to getting more children involved in tennis. Use discount code **WINTERPOP24** for 10% off.

[Click here to go to their website](#)

### Avon Tennis

Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol

United Kingdom

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