



# AVON TENNIS

Avon Tennis

April 2025

Newsletter

## Follow us on socials



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 .....

### Ollie Bendall - County Performance Coordinator

Hi, I wanted to introduce myself and explain a bit more about what I do for in my role for the County. My role is centred around five key areas of responsibility: collaboration with **coaches**, engagement with **players and parents**, liaison with the **LTA** and coordination with the **County office**.

I'll start with my role with the coaches, so it's up to us as a team but obviously led by me to dictate the structure of the sessions and discuss what is included. We have lots of conversations with each other, the LTA and Shane Deacon as the LTA Performance Pathway Manager to make sure the sessions we deliver at county are the right spec with the right up to date information and knowledge. I am keen to make sure the skills etc we deliver mirror what players would do at if they reach the next level – regional and national pathway. We are a stepping stone to possibly bigger and better things. We want the best for our players.

Feedback to players and parents is crucial, providing clear, constructive insights into performance and progress. My door is always open for conversations, so feel free to get in touch for feedback.

Working closely with the County Office is a key to the success of the County programme where all the behind-the-scenes stuff is sorted!

Close collaboration with the LTA ensures our sessions are delivered to the correct specification. We ensure equal representation of boys and girls in all age groups where we can, which is important to us as a county. We also identify and recommend talented 10U players for the LTA Player Pathway, giving them early exposure to regional-level training and competition.

Please get in touch if you need any more info or have any questions :)

[countyperformance@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:countyperformance@avontennis.org.uk)



## EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

### Avon Tennis Big Night Out: An Epic Evening of Fun and celebration!

What an incredible evening we had at the BNO on Saturday 29th March. We were delighted to host over 120 guests at the delightful County Cricket Ground in Bristol. The event was a resounding success, featuring delicious food, a lively room filled with coaches, committee members, players, and volunteers, all contributing to an amazing atmosphere. We were honoured once again to welcome Sandi Proctor as our guest speaker and presenter of the awards and we are grateful to all who attended and made it such a memorable occasion.

Many thanks to everyone involved in the planning and running of the event but especially to the organisers, Carol Weeks, Claire Nutt, Rachel and Lucy. Special thanks to Marc Trought from Gloucestershire Cricket for providing such an amazing venue, Louise Price, (from Price of Bath) for the tennis balls in the table decorations, Cormac MacMahon for being a very dapper MC and June for the photos.

We can't wait to celebrate with you again next year.

In the meantime, please visit our new YouTube channel to watch the highlights from the evening.



Avon Tennis BNO Video

## CLUBS & VENUES

### Next Coffee & Chat is 1st May 2025 @Rocket Padel

Avon Tennis would like to invite you to the final Coffee & Chat in this series on **THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY** at Rocket Padel, **11-12.30pm** for a chat then play some free Padel afterwards!

Our guest speakers for the morning are Lara Suarez-Neves and Andrew Nixon. We have added a short bio about them both on the Avon Tennis Website here –

<https://www.avontennis.org.uk/news/coffee-chat/>

The theme of the morning is "Help with your Club Comms and Use of Social Media", both Lara & Andrew will offer advice, ideas, and quick fixes for us to use and develop within our settings.

I will be leading the discussion in my role as Clubs & Venues County Lead. As ever, we will have time for other subjects to be aired and shared, if you have any questions or queries, please contact me directly or respond to this email into the Avon Office. Please feel free to pass this email onto committee members, your coaches and other interested parties.



### AVON TENNIS CLUBS & VENUES COFFEE & CHAT

**THEME: Help with your club  
comms & Use of Social Media**

**THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2025**

**11 - 12.30pm**

**ROCKET PADEL BS4 4EB**

**We are pleased to have two guest  
speakers for details go to  
[www.avontennis.org.uk](https://www.avontennis.org.uk)**

**ALL club committee members are welcome**

**Join us from 10.30am onwards for a coffee then a sneaky  
game of padel afterwards!**

**Register now :**

**[clubs@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:clubs@avontennis.org.uk)**

To register for the Coffee & Chat please email  
[clubs@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:clubs@avontennis.org.uk)

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**On behalf of the LTA & Avon Tennis we wanted to share with you the grants and resources that are available to you to “open up” our sport, drive participation and support your clubs and coaching programmes.**

#### **Avon Tennis Grants & Loans**

We have several different schemes, all detailed below:-

- Small grant scheme up to £250 to go towards Big Tennis Weekends, School or Community Taster Days, Adult Introductory Courses, new competitions, Tennis Leaders Courses, Flyers & Marketing etc
- Large grant scheme £251 - £2500 to go towards a School to Club Link scheme, Women and Girls programmes, disability, and open court activities)
- Loans for capital projects up to 15K
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More information can be found here [Avon Tennis Grant & Loan Schemes](#) | [Avon Tennis](#)

If its Disability Sessions LTA Open Court Programme you need help with then email [opencourt@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:opencourt@avontennis.org.uk) to discuss your activities or potential opportunities in your area.(e.g. links with **SEN schools, disability community groups**) grants from £150 - £300

We are lucky in Avon to have our own [Happy Lane Fund](#) check out what it is, it might just be what you are looking for!

Additionally, the county also has a coach and officials bursary scheme to help individuals wanting to start or progress down the LTA tennis or Padel pathway.

Further details can be found here: [Coaching Bursary Scheme](#) | [Avon Tennis](#) & [Officials Bursary Scheme](#)

For more innovative ideas and support from the LTA click here

If you have any questions please email the office [tennis@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:tennis@avontennis.org.uk) or [clubs@avontennis.org.uk](mailto:clubs@avontennis.org.uk)

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There are also lots of other programmes and products available to you to support you and your club in driving participation and membership at your venue.

Please click [here](#) for more details.

## **JUNIOR PERFORMANCE**

### **2025 Junior County Cup Continues**

What an amazing start to the 2025 County Cup race. Our 18U boys and Girls took part in their County Cups in March in Cardiff and Hull respectively. The all played amazing tennis and both teams were promoted to Div 2 and Div 1 respectively. A fantastic achievement, well done all players and coaches.

## **COACHES**

We wish Ali Blackett (Performance Coach of the Year) and Andy Gray (Coach of the Year) huge luck at the National Finals at the National Tennis Centre this week. Go Team Avon!



## OPEN COURT/EDI



### Is Your Venue Inclusive for Women and Girls?

The **Venue Support Toolkit** below offers various resources and insights to better understand and address the needs of women and girls in sports, ensuring that your venue remains welcoming and supportive for everyone.

Venue Support Toolkit

## Disability Inclusion Training

- **What:** Disability Inclusion Training is designed to increase confidence, competence, and knowledge to deliver fun and inclusive activities for all abilities and needs
- **When:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 6-9pm
- **Where:** Gloucestershire County Cricket Ground, Nevil Rd, Bishopston, Bristol BS7 9EJ
- **Cost:** Training is costed at £45 per person however for our Bristol based clubs that use the code **access-sport-partner** in the promo code section will access it for **free**.

BOOK NOW 🌟🔥

Disability Inclusion in Community Sport Training

## AVON LEAGUES

The Men's and Ladies summer leagues start on the 9th May. Also the Youth Leagues start this month.

Good luck to all teams and keep your eyes peeled for updates here throughout the season.

## UPCOMING DATES

**\*8U County Cup - Southampton - 26th April**

**\*14U County Cup - 3/4 May**

**\*10U County Cup - 10/11 May**

**\*Avon Summer Leagues begin - 9th May**

**AND FINALLY!**

**We are having a bit of a clear out!**

**Got an event coming up? Need some trophies to jazz it up?**

We've got a stash of spare trophies looking for good homes. Pop into the office and grab a few. Totally free. No holding, just first come, first served.

Please call the office to make sure someone is here before rocking up on 07479 260615.

*Our normal working hours are Monday 8.30am – 12.30pm / Tuesday 8.30am – 4pm /  
Wednesday 8.30am – 1.30pm / Thursday 9am – 4pm*

### **Avon Tennis**

Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol

United Kingdom

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[Sorry to see you go.](#)

