



Avon Tennis

Dec 2025

Newsletter

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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 AVON TENNIS

THANK YOU TO IAN ALEXANDER



Ian Alexander, who is retiring as LTA Councillor for Avon Tennis after nine years, has bowed out with a top award.

Ian was presented with the LTA Councillor Award for Passion by Chief Executive Scott Lloyd and President Sandi Procter at his final council meeting at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton, West London.

His citation stated: "Ian has never missed a council meeting nor a workstream meeting in his nine-year tenure. He has served on various advisory groups, most recently as lead of both the Safeguarding and County Competition workstreams. He has a passion for tennis and helping others and is always available at the end of the phone to help with any questions."

Avon Tennis Chair Carol Weeks said: "Ian has been a great ambassador for the county and is a worthy winner of this award. I would like to thank him on behalf of us all for his outstanding service as our LTA Councillor and for his unparalleled commitment to Avon Tennis over the years in a number of important roles."



Ian's successor as LTA Councillor for Avon Tennis is Mandy Stonier, who has been a member of the Avon Tennis Executive since 2019 and for the last two years has led the Supporting Clubs & Venues programme. She is a Trustee and former chair of Somer Valley Tennis Club and a Level 3 club coach and competition organiser.

Mandy has held volunteer roles in tennis for over 25 years and has supported the LTA at major events since 2017. She won an award for her work with the Judy Murray 'She Rallies' initiative in 2018, and was named County Volunteer of the Year in 2024.

She will be known to many as the host of our popular Coffee & Chats which allow Clubs and Venues to share good practice. She remains an active tennis player and also plays Padel, representing the County in O50 and O60 competitions.

Carol Weeks, 17 December 2025

CLUBS & VENUES



Clubs & Venues - stay in the loop.

Join the Avon Tennis WhatsApp group,

for updates, support, advice and more,

discover everything our tennis community has in store.

COACHES

Start Your Coaching Journey in 2026

The **LTA Assistant: Core Training (Level 1)** is the ideal introduction to tennis coaching, giving you the confidence and skills to support sessions safely and effectively. Delivered over two face-to-face days at **David Lloyd Club Bristol Long Ashton** in January 2026, this practical and engaging course helps you build strong foundations and take your first step on the LTA coaching pathway. At **£265**, it's an investment in your development, your confidence, and your future in coaching—perfect for anyone ready to turn their passion for tennis into something more.

From January 2026 the LTA's Coach Development Centres (CDCs) will become Workforce Development Centres (WDCs). Rocket Padel will continue to serve Avon. Click on the link below to go to their new website where you can find all course dates for 2026.

Need help with funding your course? No problem - go to our website and find info on our bursary scheme. <https://www.avontennis.org.uk/coaching-bursary-scheme/> or reach out to Kay Gilbert, Avon Tennis Workforce Lead on 07958 001089 who will be on hand with advice and support.

LOVE EVERY DAY. BECOME A COACH.



**A NEW JOB
TO LOVE**



[Click here to visit RocketPadel.com to book your place](https://RocketPadel.com)

EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

LTA YOUTH SCHOOLS - ENTRY PERIOD OPEN

[Click on the link to log into your youth schools account and enter.](#)

[Enter Here](#)



PADEL

Avon Players Shine at the 1st LTA Padel National Championships

The inaugural **LTA Padel National Championships** proved to be a landmark event for the sport, and Avon players were proud to be part of an outstanding weekend of competition.

More than **250 players** took part across **eight categories**, creating a vibrant and competitive atmosphere throughout the event. The championships also attracted **strong media attention**, with coverage from **BBC Points West, BBC Radio Bristol, and ITV West**, all highlighting the growing profile of Padel in the UK.

A total of **14 Avon players** competed across multiple categories, delivering strong performances and representing the region superbly. The event was well supported by spectators, contributing to a fantastic atmosphere on and off court.

We were delighted to welcome **Sandy Procter, LTA President**, who attended over the weekend and presented the prizes to the winners. The championships would not have been possible without the dedication of the **25+ volunteers from the Avon Padel community**, who generously gave their time to support the event. Special thanks also go to **Nic Webber**, who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend in her role as Court Supervisor.



Tom Batchelor & Callum
Treasurer – Winners of the
Men's Consolation event



Julie Jones & Sarah Thomas –
Winners of the *Over-50s*
Consolation event



Group Shot of the competition
venue

Avon Players Who Competed

Women's Open - Connie Simpson & Ruby Matthias

Women's Over 50s - Julie Jones

Women's Over 60s - Mandy Stonier & Jo Francis Pope

Girls 18 & Under - Ruby M

Men's Open - Max Gunning, Jack Jeffries, Tom Marshall, Ben Harris, Tom Batchelor, Callum Treasurer, Tom Hale (Qualifying)

Boys 18 & Under - Frederick CJ & Sebby F

OPEN COURT/EDI

✨ Avon Tennis Shines at Ignite Multi-Sports Event! ✨

Avon Tennis had an **amazing time** at the Ignite Multi-Sports event at **Clifton College on Saturday 22nd November**, introducing young people to tennis through **fun, inclusive, and accessible activities**.

From conventional hitting to creative games using **balloons and bean bags**, every activity was adapted to meet individual needs —ensuring everyone could take part, feel confident and enjoy the experience.

The event highlighted the value of inclusive equipment and provided a great opportunity to raise awareness of Avon Tennis's inclusive opportunities across the county.

A huge thank you to **Helen Abbott, Carol Weeks, Jane Woodruff, Claire Callaghan, Patrick Treen**, and **Jonny Fenner (Access Sport)** for delivering sessions, engaging with participants and families, and providing outstanding on-court support throughout the day.

A fantastic day celebrating **inclusion, participation, and the joy of tennis!**

See some of the photos on our Instagram page here

You can also read more about it on the Access Sport website

Click here

IMPORTANT DATES

- * **19 Dec 2025 - 4 Jan 2026 Avon Tennis Office Closed**
- * **22 January 2026 - Avon Tennis AGM at Shaftesbury Park, BS16 1LG**
- * **5 February 2026 - February Coffee & Chat (Open Court)**
- * **12 March 2026 - March Coffee & Chat (Opening up your courts for Summer)**
- * **21 March 2026 - Big Night Out**

AND FINALLY!

Avon Tennis would like to wish all our players and members — juniors and adults — as well as our volunteers, officials, coaches, staff, parents, clubs/venues, and partners a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for your incredible support throughout the year. Together, we are building a stronger tennis and Padel community across Avon, and we're excited to make 2026 our best year yet.

It's been an outstanding year for Avon Tennis, so we've put together a short highlights video celebrating some of the moments that made it so special.

Click the link below to watch: *Avon Tennis – A Snapshot of our year.*

Disclaimer: So much has happened across the county this year that not everything could make the cut — otherwise the video would never end!

We look forward to seeing you all on court in the New Year.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



Avon Tennis

Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol
United Kingdom



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