

Avon Tennis

June 2026

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

Introducing Kay Gilbert

Hi there - my name is Kay Gilbert & I've been volunteering as the Workforce Lead for Avon Tennis since 2020. It's a role I find incredibly rewarding, giving me the chance to support our coaching community and give back to the sport.

Over the past six years, I've helped bring coaches together through networking events, shared learning, and regular communication. We also have a thriving WhatsApp group of over 100 coaches who support each other and exchange ideas - (join up [here](#) if you're not already on the group & are a coach!) The coaches in our county are really fun to be around; they have a great positive, supportive energy, & a strong connection to grassroots tennis.

Avon fund two Coach Network Events which I run each year bringing experts to the group & giving them a space to share best practice, get updates & feedback. Recently we also held a Female Coach Network Event online, called "Her Contact Point", in collaboration with other Southwest Counties & Rocket Padel, our local Workforce Development Centre.

I also work closely with the LTA and Rocket Padel to keep coaches informed about new opportunities and initiatives. With a national shortage of tennis coaches, there's never been a better time to get involved. If you're thinking about becoming a coach, Avon offers



coaching bursaries to help you gain your qualifications - please get in touch to find out more!

CLUBS & VENUES



JOIN OUR TEAM!

Avon Tennis is looking for a passionate volunteer, to build on the fantastic work of Mandy Stonier, as our new **Clubs & Venues Lead**.

This is a rewarding opportunity to support clubs and venues across the county, help grow the game, and make a lasting impact on local tennis. If you're enthusiastic about grassroots sport and want to give something back, we'd love to hear from you.

[Clubs Venues Lead Job Advert](#)

EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

Avon Tennis has 3 (**Yes 3!!!**) tournaments at the County Championships this summer



Avon County Championships

Grade 3 competition

8U - Open

Weeklong tournament

County Champs
Entry



Challenger County Championships

Grade 6 competition

12U - 18U

One day tournament

Challenger
Champs Entry



Avon Walking Tennis Competition

Matchplay competition

18+

One day tournament

Walking Tennis
Entry

Champion Performance: Avon Men Secure Title in Group 6!

A huge congratulations to the Avon Men's Tennis Team for taking 1st place in Group 6 at the LTA Summer County Cup 2026 at East Glos Club, Cheltenham! Facing off against five teams over five days of intense competition (20–24 July), Avon delivered a masterclass in determination and depth. Out of 43 total rubbers played, the team clinched 28 of them, securing 8 points to finish top of the table ahead of Dorset and Berkshire.

Week at a Glance:

Mon: Berkshire (W 5–4) – Kicked off the week with a hard-fought nail-biter.

Tue: Dorset (L 4–5) – A tight battle that went down to the wire.

Wed: Durham & Cleveland (W 6–3) – Bounced back strong with a decisive victory.

Thu: Wiltshire (W 6–3) – Built momentum with another set of solid performance across all pairs.

Fri: South of Scotland (W 7–0) – Finished in dominant style with a total clean sweep!

With an impressive 61% set win rate (61–39) and 458 games won, the team's consistency across every court proved to be the winning edge. Please join us in giving a massive congratulations to all 10 players who represented Avon so brilliantly throughout the week. Congratulations on a well-deserved promotion!



COACHES

Avon Coach Network Event - Save the Date!

Our next Avon Coach Network Event, **which is free for all coaches to attend**, will be held at Rocket Padel on **Thursday 3rd Sept**.

Our guest speaker is **Simon Grieve** from Canterbury TC, a **Level 5 Master Performance Coach** with a B.Sc in Psychology, who will lead a workshop called **"Building collaborative relationships with tennis parents"**. Simon will help coaches to explore some of the challenges tennis parents might face, discuss how to communicate effectively with parents, share how to build a team around the child, & become more confident in partnering with parents.

We will also be discussing what good allyship for female coaches looks like before hearing county & LTA regional updates. There will be a light lunch provided & we have booked 3 courts for padel play after.

Schedule

- **9:00am** – Informal networking
- **9:30am** – CPD session
- **12:30pm** – Light lunch
- **1:00–2:00pm** – Padel

Keep an eye on the **Avon Coach WhatsApp Group** for booking details, and help us spread the word!

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon at the Avon Tennis Junior Squad Social 2026!



Join us as we celebrate a fantastic year of junior performance tennis with exciting games, fun challenges, plenty of laughs, and the chance to spend time with teammates, friends, and family. It's a celebration you won't want to miss!

Date: Saturday 19th September 2026

Venue: Redmaids' High School

Time: 4:00 – 7:00pm

Tickets are **free** but must be **reserved in advance.**

Only one ticket per squad member is needed – no need to book for parents or siblings.

Please use your **child's name** when booking, but your **own (parent/carer) email address** – we'll use this for any important event updates.

Book Here: Reserve your ticket
on Eventbrite

OPEN COURT

Coaching at New Fosseway School: A Truly Rewarding Experience

Coaching at New Fosseway School over the past three terms has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my coaching career says Knowle LTCs Head Coach Dave Willford.

Working with children with a wide range of additional needs has taught me so much, and I've genuinely loved every session. Seeing the excitement, pride and confidence on the pupils' faces when they achieve something - whether it's a first successful shot or simply having the confidence to try - is a feeling that's hard to replicate.

The support from the school has played a huge part in making the sessions such a success. The excellent one-to-one provision and the commitment of the teaching assistants, who actively participate in every lesson, help create an inclusive environment where every pupil has the opportunity to achieve and enjoy being active.

If you've ever considered coaching in a SEND school, I can't recommend it highly enough. It's great fun, incredibly rewarding, and has helped me grow as both a coach and a person.

Dave Willford - Knowle LTC

If you are interested in finding out more about coaching in SEN Schools or open court tennis/padel please get in touch

Contact
Rachel

EDI

Discover Bristol's Newest Community Tennis Courts at Dingle Close

Looking for somewhere new to play? The **newly refurbished tennis courts at Dingle Close** in Sea Mills are now open, providing a fantastic new venue for players of all ages and abilities.

The site features two high-quality tarmac courts that can be booked online. Whether you're rallying with friends, introducing the family to tennis, or getting back on court after a break, Dingle Close offers an affordable and welcoming place to play. Annual Household Membership is just £35, giving everyone in your household free court bookings across five Bristol Parks Tennis venues. If you prefer, you can simply Pay & Play for £5 per court per hour.

The courts are part of the **Bristol Parks Tennis** programme, helping to make tennis more accessible across the city through modern facilities and easy online booking.

Why not grab your racket and give the new courts a try?

For more information or to book a court, visit [Dingle Close on ClubSpark](#).

SAFEGUARDING

Dear Avon Tennis Community

The LTA are evaluating the effectiveness of Avon Tennis safeguarding measures and the purpose of this survey is to seek your feedback. Your views and opinions are vitally important to achieving this. The LTA is administering this survey and will be collating the results. An anonymised summary of the results of the survey will be shared with Avon Tennis. The survey will be open for a few weeks and will take around 5 minutes to complete. To access the survey, please use the following link

PADEL

Players Wanted – Women's Padel 60s County Cup!

Could you represent Avon?

We're looking for enthusiastic women **aged 60+** to join the **Avon team** for the **Women's Padel 60s County Cup**, taking place **4th – 6th September** at **Rocket Padel**.

Interested? Contact **Jo** on **07710 159633** to register your interest.

AVON LEAGUES

AVON TENNIS LEAGUE RESULTS 2026

Men's Summer League

Division	Winners	Division	Winners
1	Cotham Park 1		
2A	Redland Green 1	2B	Bath 1
3A	Sodbury 1	3B	Portishead 1
4A	Portishead 2	4B	Camvale 1
5A	Cotham Park 4	5B	Clifton 4
6A	Sodbury 5	6B	Lansdown 3
7A	Cotham Park 5	7B	Fry 1
8A	Bath 4	8B	Portishead 4
8C	Camvale 2	8D	Portishead 3
9A	DL Emersons Green	9B	Bath 5

Women's Summer League

Division	Winners	Division	Winners
1	Central 1		
2A	Somer Valley 1	2B	Sodbury 1
3A	Bath 2	3B	Cotham Park 1
4A	Saltford 1	4B	Saltford 2
5A	Bath 3	5B	Sodbury 4
6A	DL Emersons Green	6B	Woodlands

UPCOMING DATES

- * 23rd - 30th August - Avon County Closed Championships
- * 4th - 6th September- O60s Padel County Championships
- * 19th September - Junior Squad Social

COMPETITION WINNER

We asked you to share your favourite photos from your trips to Wimbledon

Congratulations to



Elly Shearman for her winning photo of the Wimbledon Queue!

These guys were determined to experience the true Wimbledon tradition by queuing for tickets. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and had an unforgettable day.



Please contact the office to arrange prize collection.

We had some amazing entries. Thanks everyone for sending in your photos.

[Watch a video of the entries here](#)

Avon Tennis

Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol
United Kingdom



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