

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 Claire Hawkins

Claire Hawkins is the new Secretary of Avon Tennis, with responsibility for governance. She brings a wealth of experience from club committee roles, having served as Treasurer, Secretary and Chair at Olveston & Tockington Tennis Club, where she is now a Life Member, and at Thornbury Tennis Club, where she currently serves as Club President.

Claire has been involved in tennis since childhood – her mother even made her tennis dresses. She only recently parted with her wooden Max Ply racket, which became warped after being taken out of the racket press!

Away from the tennis court, Claire has a wide range of interests including film, theatre, gardening, reading and continues to work part-time as an air pollution scientist.



EVENTS/COMPETITIONS

Play Your Way to Wimbledon – County Finals



The **Play Your Way to Wimbledon Avon Area Finals** took place on **Sunday 21 June** at **Sodbury Tennis Club**, where players enjoyed a fantastic day of tennis in glorious sunshine.

Despite the hot conditions, everyone coped brilliantly, producing some excellent tennis and a host of closely contested matches. Congratulations to all the players for their outstanding efforts and sportsmanship throughout the hot day.

A special thank you goes to the wonderful volunteers at Sodbury Tennis Club, who looked after players, families and officials so well. Their homemade cakes, cold drinks and, perhaps most importantly, ice lollies were very much appreciated and helped keep everyone refreshed throughout the day.

Congratulations to all of our winners, who now progress to the next stage of the competition at Wimbledon at the end of August.

SINGLES - 14U GIRLS - Winner Ava, Runner up Lena, 14U BOYS - Winner Matei, Runner up Lewis

DOUBLES - 18U BOYS - Winners Leo & Jude, Runners up Prithiv & Charlie

COACHES



The Next Generation of Coaches

It was fantastic to welcome **22 participants** to Day 1 of the **LTA Tennis Assistants Course** at Coombe Dingle on **Monday 22 June** - with an incredible **21 of them from Avon**.

It's inspiring to see so many enthusiastic new coaches taking their first steps into coaching. Their passion and commitment will play an important role in growing tennis across the county.

We wish everyone the very best of luck for Day 2 and look forward to seeing them out on court in the near future!

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE

Junior County Performance Programme Update

It's been an exciting start to the year for our Junior County Performance Programme, with several teams already enjoying fantastic success.

Our 9U County Cup teams both enjoyed excellent success, with the boys' and girls' teams winning their regional qualifying events and earning places at the National South Finals in Southampton. Both teams represented the county with great pride and success: with the boys fighting hard to win 5 rubbers and 6th place and the girls winning 9 rubbers and an excellent 3rd placed finish.

Our 10U teams also performed brilliantly. The boys narrowly missed out on a place at the National Finals, losing a deciding match tie-break 11-9, while the girls dominated regional qualifying without dropping a match before going on the finals where the standard of competition was exceptionally high. The team competed admirably, securing a rubber win and pushing several of the country's strongest counties very close. They ultimately finished sixth nationally, an excellent achievement and valuable experience for all involved.

The 11U County Cup teams played in their qualifying events this month, with our boys travelling to Oxford and girls competing in Poole.

OPEN COURT

Ignite Bristol Hosts Uplifting Multi-Sport Festival at Coombe Dingle Sports Complex

[Read more about it here](#)

A heartfelt thank you to Helen Abbott, Holly Anstey, Will Gordon, Jonny Fenner, Claire Callaghan, and her son Patrick for their fantastic support in running the tennis at this event. It was inspiring to see so many children taking part and discovering the enjoyment, friendship, and excitement that make tennis such a special sport.

Holly, a tennis assistant and coach at David Lloyd Long Ashton, said she found the event's welcoming community and positive atmosphere particularly rewarding.

EDI

She Rallies Summit



On 20 June 2026, ten female coaches from across Avon attended the **She Rallies Summit** at the **HSBC Championships** at The Queen's Club, London.

It was inspiring to see so many passionate and dedicated coaches come together, all with a shared commitment to growing opportunities for women and girls in tennis and padel.

Throughout the day, the group explored a range of important topics, including the current landscape for female coaches, the challenges of working in a traditionally male-dominated industry, and practical strategies for building confidence, investing in personal development, and creating sustainable coaching careers.

The open discussions, thoughtful reflections and willingness to share experiences made the day both engaging and empowering. The chance to watch the HSBC Championships and enjoy a Serena Williams practice session was a fantastic bonus and a fitting end to an inspiring day.

The LTA launched a new pilot scheme at the event called RAFF (Refer a Female Friend). If you would like more information please email opencourt@avontennis.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

"No Hate, Just Sport"

No Hate, Just Sport is launching the next phase in its campaign as it begins recruiting for a **new volunteering in sport opportunity, the No Hate, Just Sport Club Champions**.

No Hate, Just Sport, which is a joint initiative between Wesport and the Bristol-based charity Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI), aims to nurture environments in Bristol **sports clubs that are free from discrimination and hate** so that everyone can access the positive outcomes that sport provides.

We're looking for volunteers to become No Hate, Just Sport Club Champions in Bristol. We want Club Champions who will **help us promote the campaign's message in your sports clubs, work to make**

your environment safer and more welcoming for all and provide feedback to us on the resources and training we provide.

Full details on this exciting new opportunity and **how you can apply** can be found on the Wesport website below:

<https://www.wesport.org.uk/news/no-hate-just-sport-launches-applications-for-club-ambassadors/>

PADEL

Pride Padel - Creating a More Inclusive Padel Community

To celebrate Pride Month, we would like to highlight the inspiring work of **Pride Padel**, a Bristol-based community helping to make padel more welcoming and accessible for LGBTQ+ players and allies.

Founded by Laura and Seun Crowe, Pride Padel focuses on creating fun, inclusive events for players of all abilities. From beginner taster sessions and social mix-ins to tournaments and coaching clinics, every event is designed to make participants feel comfortable, informed and supported.

The initiative has grown rapidly since launching in 2025, with events regularly selling out. Organisers believe that simple touches - clear communication, welcoming language, well-planned sessions and a friendly atmosphere - can make a huge difference in helping people try a new sport and build confidence.

Their story is a reminder that padel is about more than competition; it's about creating communities where everyone feels they belong, both on and off the court and Avon Tennis are proud to support.

[Read more in the LTA article here](#)

Pride Padel also runs community led Padel events, with the aim of creating a safe and welcoming space for the LGBTQ+ community and allies to get into a new sport and meet new people.

Join them for **Pride Padel Summerfest** ahead of Bristol Pride.

[Pride Padel Taster & Tournament Booking](#)

AVON LEAGUES

With half the season complete, Cotham Park currently sit top of Men's Division 1 with a commanding 14-point lead over Clifton. Unsurprisingly, Cotham also dominate the individual player statistics, with Billy White the standout performer so far, recording nine rubber wins and just one loss.

The most hotly contested division appears to be Division 5B, with Olveston & Tockington, Redland Green 4 and Clifton 4 all tied at the top on 32 points. Who will make their move in the second half of the season?

Also of note are Sodbury's first team in Division 3, who have a perfect 50 points from their first five matches, and David Lloyd Emersons Green in Division 9A, who have collected 40 points from their

opening four matches. Can they maintain their impressive form in the second half of the season?

In the Ladies' League, Central 1 are six points clear of David Lloyd Westbury in Division 1, with Izzy Burrow leading the individual player statistics with eight rubber wins and no losses.

The closest division is 4B, where Salford 2 sit just ahead on 36 points, closely followed by Bishop Sutton 3 and Redland Green 2, who are both on 34 points.

It's fantastic to see so much competitive tennis taking place across the county. Good luck to everyone for the rest of the season!

UPCOMING DATES

- * **29th June - 12th July - WIMBLEDON**
- * **20th - 24th July - Open Summer County Cup**
- * **23rd - 30th August - Avon County Closed Championships**
- * **4th - 6th September- O60s Padel County Championships**
- * **19th September - Junior Squad Social**

AVON TENNIS TIP OF THE MONTH

Open or Closed Stance?

Did you know that your dominant eye plays a major role on your groundstrokes? How to decide which stance to use in regards to you dominant eye.

Click here
for the video
tip from
Patrick
Mouratoglou

Avon Tennis

Coombe Dingle Sports Centre, Bristol
United Kingdom



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