



# THE BERKSHIRE TENNIS BASELINE

News and Updates from Tennis and Padel in the County // Issue 01// Aug' 2025



10U Berkshire Girls (plus captains Nigel and Lewis) at County Cup South Area Finals 2025

## Welcome!

We're thrilled to introduce The Berkshire Tennis Baseline, your new monthly newsletter dedicated to all things tennis and padel in Berkshire.

Our goal is to keep you in the loop with the latest news, events, and insights from across our vibrant racket sports community. For now, you can expect to hear from us once a month, but we may increase the frequency if there's enough happening to share.

We hope you enjoy this new way to stay connected.

## CONTRIBUTE

If you have news that you'd like to share, please send no more than 100 words and at least one high-resolution photo to [lara.suarez@berkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:lara.suarez@berkshiretennis.org.uk). To be included in next month's newsletter, please send submissions in by the 28th August 2025.

# LATEST NEWS

## Berkshire Tennis - Recent Team Appointments

Over recent months we have successfully been advertising for various positions on the Berkshire LTA committee. We are still recruiting for a Governance Secretary and our Padel community is growing fast, so we are looking to form a sub group for that aspect as soon as possible. This could include players or coaches.

### Berkshire Tennis Chair - Chris Meads

Chris is currently Chief Commercial Officer at Vodafone Shared Operations. Prior to this, he spent 14 years at Accenture, where he was a Managing Director leading large-scale transformation programmes

across multiple industries. Alongside his professional career, Chris has held several non-executive roles over the past decade, most recently serving on the board of the Anaphylaxis Campaign, where he supported the charity through a period of strategic and digital transformation.

Chris has a lifelong passion for tennis. As a junior, he represented his county, region and competed at national level. Today, he continues to be heavily involved in the game, playing with his son Jeffrey, who plays for Berkshire U8s. Chris is a passionate advocate for growing the sport at all levels and is committed to helping Berkshire Tennis thrive across participation, performance, and community engagement.

### Chair of Leagues - Tony Williams

Tony is well known in the Berkshire Tennis Community, both as a player within the Local Berkshire Leagues,

and as an LTA Accredited+ Level 4 Coach. Tony is passionate about Tennis and in developing the correct pathways for players of all ages and abilities to progress from beginners learning to play social tennis, to those finding a route to commence playing in local tournaments and competitions. Tony has run several tournaments and has first-hand knowledge and experience of the requirements the various tennis competition formats the Berkshire League operate.

With Tony's proven organisational skills and his detailed knowledge of the local Berkshire Tennis Competition structure, we welcome his addition to the Berkshire Team as Leagues and Competitions Chair.

Find out more about the Berkshire Tennis Team on our website [here](#).

## LTA Meritorious President's Award

Berkshire Tennis' very own Lesley Cundy (former Berkshire Tennis Chair, LTA Councillor & Board member, current EDI and Open Court Lead, and much much more!), was presented with the LTA Meritorious Service Award by LTA President Sandi Procter at a ceremony in Queens Club recently.

Anyone who has been involved in tennis in Berkshire will have met or worked with Lesley, and we are all in awe of her incredible dedication and relentless hard work in the sport. As EDI and Open Court Lead, she continues her advocacy of making tennis and padel more inclusive to all.



## LTA Releases Competition Plan 2025-29



**LTA Update:** A new LTA Competition Plan has been published for 2025-2029, which marks a key step change in the way we approach growing and developing the competitive structure in Great Britain.

The LTA want to work with all those involved in delivering competition activity to embed a true culture of competition across tennis and padel in Great Britain, to ultimately grow the numbers of adults and children competing, and as a result playing more and staying in the sport for longer.

A culture of competition promotes a belief amongst the tennis and

padel community in the value and importance of competitive play. It's about ensuring that all players regardless of age or ability – can access appropriate competitions for their level that are welcoming, enjoyable and inspiring.

Many people are successfully doing this already but there is more that can be done to address the gaps and encourage juniors to move from recreational to formal competition and to link coaching programmes to children's first experience of competition.

Find out more and read the update on the LTA website [here](#).



# COUNTY UPDATES

## Inclusive Tennis and Padel

We are working with the LTA to have a combined **PAN Disability festival** in the county later in the year, joining forces with potential players from Surrey, Middlesex & Oxfordshire. This festival will highlight wheelchair tennis and Para standing tennis and bring together other areas of disability so players can try our sport.

**Wheelchair tennis sessions** continue at both Bisham and at Reading University TennisPark and Sport in Mind continue to deliver free tennis once a week for their service users.

We held a very successful **SEND schools event** in Slough having trained 12 teachers earlier in the year. Those teachers delivered tennis during the summer term and then joined together for the festival at Eton College - 51 pupils attended. Many thanks to Laura Brookstein for all her organizational help pulling this together.

Both **Pangbourne Tennis Club** and **Sonning Tennis Club** delivered sessions at local primary schools for children with learning difficulties under our Open Court programme - please get in touch if this is something your club would be interested in delivering.

Our Workforce Development partner, Courtside Education (formerly Growing the Game) organized a very successful Inclusive **Padel coaches course** at **Maidenhead Padel** with 6 women and a wheelchair player taking part. A Padel Officials course will be on offer soon as well as a Tennis competition organisers course.

The **Berkshire Tennis Women's Network** have held a couple of gatherings in recent months - an in-person one in March to celebrate International Women's Day and online catch up in July. The group is made up of female coaches, officials, volunteers, committee members - anyone involved in tennis in the county. Anyone is welcome to join, with the purpose of sharing ideas, connecting and supporting each other to help grow women and girls tennis across the county.



## Home Park LTC Welcome Brownies and Royalty!

The team at Home Park LTC not only welcomed the wonderful 6th Windsor Brownie Pack for some tennis, but a few months later, had a Royal visit from HRH Prince Edward to open their new club house.

We'll share photos of the Royal visit soon, but in the meantime, if you're keen to find out how we support venues, please do get in touch or visit the website.

# 8U County Open Days 2025

The Berkshire Tennis 8U County coaches will once again be holding Open Days for players who are keen to progress along their journey in tennis and be part of county training.

The emphasis of the sessions is tennis fun, parent education and informal assessment led by our 8U County Captain, Rob Flynn and 10U Performance Lead, Nigel Mann:

- Players should be born in 2018 (regularly competing), 2019, 2020 or 2021 (intending/starting to compete in internal/external competitions)

- Players should be playing/ Training at least twice a week (or looking to increase their training)
- Players should be passionate about tennis!

**Parents** - please speak to your child's coach about their suitability for these sessions.

**Coaches** - please get in touch with Nigel at [nigel.mann@berkshiretennis.org.uk](mailto:nigel.mann@berkshiretennis.org.uk) if you have any queries about players you'd like to recommend.

Players can be booked onto the FREE sessions here:

**Bradfield Tennis Centre - 29th August 2025 from 14:00-15:30**

**Cox Green Leisure Centre - 4th October 2025 from 14:00-15:30**

Please note: players who currently attend county training do not need to attend. We look forward to meeting lots of you at the 8U County Open Days!

# PADEL UPDATE

Padel continues to grow rapidly across the UK, and Berkshire is quickly becoming a key part of that growth. As of today, there are nine padel venues across the county, with additional sites scheduled to open by the end of the year and into early 2026.

With this expansion, we will need **more referees, officials and coaches** to support the sport's development and ensure events run smoothly. If you are passionate about padel and want to get more involved in the community, now is the perfect time to step in. Click the links here on: [How to become a Padel Official](#) and [How to become the Padel Instructor](#)

In 2024, we launched the first **Berkshire County Padel Championships** and subsequently formed our county's official padel teams (Men's, Ladies and Mixed). These teams made their competitive debut at the UK Padel County Championships in November 2024, competing against some of the strongest counties across the UK. Since then, we have competed in the O40, O50 UK Padel County Championships with remarkable results, considering our teams only began competing 6–7 months ago. Our next debut will be the O60 in September 2025, followed by a return to the UK Padel County Championships in November 2025.

Earlier this year, we hosted Berkshire's first ever **Padel Coaching Course**, with an impressive 45% of the candidates being female. Among them was Kristen Paskins-Burdett, the first female wheelchair padel player to start the LTA Padel Instructor.

Berkshire will be hosting the **Inclusive Padel Tour (IPT)**, the first UK, on 20 September 2025 at Padel Maidenhead. This event will spotlight wheelchair padel and aims to inspire more people with disabilities to take up Padel. Looking ahead to 2026, we are expecting several new venues to open their doors, making it even more accessible to adult and junior players of all levels, across the county. With more courts and coaching sessions, on the way, it is the perfect time for both newcomers and experienced players to get involved.



## PADEL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025



**16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
MIXED**



Mixed doubles action will be at Padel Maidenhead. Enter today - partner or no partner (we'll match you up!)

**ENTRIES CLOSE 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



**23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST  
MEN'S & WOMENS**



Join the action for the women's and men's doubles event at The Padel Hub, Reading. Enter today!

**ENTRIES CLOSE 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

This year's Padel County Championships take place in the coming weeks! By the time this newsletter has gone out, the entry deadlines may have passed, but please do enter whether you have a partner or not.

We look forward to seeing as many Berkshire padel players as possible at both venues.

To enter visit the links below:

- [Mixed doubles event at Padel Maidenhead](#)
- [Women's or men's doubles at The Padel Hub Reading](#)



# TEAMS & COMPETITIONS

Berkshire Tennis County Teams are in action throughout the year, but things really get busy during from April/May onwards when County Cup matches happen. Below are updates on how our teams have fared so far this year:

## 10U County Teams

- **10&U County Cup Boys** – Finished 2nd Regional Group
- **10&U County Cup Girls** – Won Regional Group, Finished 4th in National Group South
- **9&U County Cup Boys** – Won Regional Group, Finished 3rd in National Group South
- **9&U County Cup Girls** – Finished 2nd Regional Group
- **8&U LTA County Cup Boys** – Won Regional Group – No National Final
- **8&U LTA County Cup Girls** – Won Regional Group – No National Final
- **10&U Lionel Cox Boys** 4th Place (10 Counties)
- **10&U Lionel Cox Girls** 3rd Place (10 Counties)
- **9&U Lionel Cox Boys** Won (10 Counties)
- **9 &U Lionel Cox Girls** 8th Place (10 Counties)
- **8U East Region Inter County** – boths girls and boys teams finished in 3rd place in their groups meaning a 2nd place finish overall.

## 11-18U County Teams

- **11U County Cup Girls** – Win Regional Group, Finished 6th in National Group
- **11U County Cup Boys** – Second place in Regional Group
- **12U County Cup Girls** – 13/14 September
- **12U County Cup Boys** – 13/4 September
- **14U County Cup Girls** – Fifth Place in Regional Group
- **14U County Cup Boys** – Fourth Place in Regional Group
- **18U County Cup Girls** – Won Regional Group, promoted to Group 3
- **18U County Cup Boys** – Won Regional Group, promoted to Group 2
- **12U Girls Lionel Cox** – Runners Up
- **12U Boys Lionel Cox** – 6th Place



## Senior County Teams

- **Summer County Cup Women** – Finished 4th in group, remain in group 3
- **Summer County Cup Men** – Finished 5th in group 5, relegated to group 6.
- **O35 Women** – Won group 4b, promoted to group 3.
- **O35 Men** – 8-10 August



## The Berkshire Tennis Novices Grand Prix 2025: Round-up

The Berkshire Novices Grand Prix returned in 2025 for its third year with 8U, 9U and 10U events run at venues across the county. This year we saw:

- 109 entries across six 8U events
- 87 entries across seven 9U events
- 57 entries across five 10U events

These events introduced inexperienced players to competition using a round robin format. We received positive feedback from parents and hope many players now feel confident entering Grade 5 events and progressing through the LTA competition pathway.



# TEAMS & COMPETITIONS

## Team Berkshire Triumphs at Over 35 County Cup

The Berkshire Over 35 County Cup women's team competed in Division 4b at Eastbourne this past weekend, putting in a strong performance that led to promotion.

The team arrived on Friday for a practice session on the grass courts to acclimate to the surface and finalize doubles pairings. Their first match on Saturday was a decisive 5-0 victory against Cambridgeshire. Singles players Laura Godfrey and Claire Powell performed exceptionally well, supported by successful doubles pairings of Sara Jenkins and Sarah Baker, and Gill Galloway and Ilona Hawker.

On day two, the team faced Derbyshire. Despite challenging, breezy conditions and rain delays, the team secured a 4-1 win. This set up a crucial final day match against Bucks, who had also won their previous two matches.

The final day brought even worse weather with stormy winds and rain. The match format was shortened to ensure it could be completed. Berkshire rose to the occasion, with Laura and Claire again winning their singles matches to secure the overall victory.

The team finished first in their group, earning a well-deserved promotion to Group 3 for next year. The team's success was supported by a dedicated group of Berkshire supporters who braved the difficult weather in Eastbourne.



## Berkshire Leagues Update

### LTA Youth League Winners 2025

Category	No. of Teams	Div 1	Div 2
8U Mixed	7	Bradfield	Bradfield
9U Mixed	7	Latika	Latika
10U Mixed	8	Maidenhead	Latika
12U Boys	7	Maidenhead	Royal Ascot
14U Boys	11	Maidenhead	Latika
16U Boys	13	Caversham	Caversham Park
18U Boys	9	Caversham	Caversham
14U Girls	3	-	Caversham
16U Girls	3	-	Latika
18U Girls	6	-	Bracknell
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>74</b>		

Berkshire Tennis Leagues have been as busy as ever, and with newly appointed Chair of Leagues, Tony Williams in place, we look forward to another new season of Berkshire Winter Leagues for 2025/26.

**LTA Youth League Winter Berkshire 2025/26 (BER-25-7020) Entry deadline is 8th September.**

**Berkshire Dunlop Winter League 2025/26 (BER-25-7014) Entry deadline is 31st August.**

### LTA National League Winners 2025

Category	No. of Teams	Div 1	Div 2
Men Open	30	Maidenhead	Group 1: Wargrave
			Group 2: Bracknell
			Group 3: Shinfield
			Group 4: Twyford
Women Open	10	Bracknell	Maidenhead
<b>Total Teams</b>	<b>40</b>		

The latest round of Berkshire Youth and National Summer Leagues 2025 have recently finished up, and you can see the results here on the right. It's been great to see so many clubs involved, and we're always keen to welcome new clubs and teams too, particularly in the juniors.

If you're interested in finding out more about Berkshire Leagues and teams, please do get in touch or visit the Leagues Resources page on our website [here](#).



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **8-10 August:** Over 35 Men's County Cup
- **16 August:** Padel County Championships (Mixed) at Padel Maidenhead [ENTRIES CLOSE 9 AUGUST](#)
- **23 August:** Padel County Championships (Women and Men) at The Padel Hub Reading [ENTRIES CLOSE 9 AUGUST](#)
- **24-30 August:** Berkshire Junior County Championships at Bradfield Tennis Centre [ENTRIES CLOSE 10 AUGUST](#)
- **31 August:** Berkshire Winter League 25/26 Closing date. More info [here](#).
- **7 Sept–12 October:** LTA Assistant: Core Training (Level 1) at DL Royal Berkshire. More info and book [here](#)
- **8 September:** LTA Youth Winter League 25/26 Closing date. More info [here](#).
- **13/14 September:** 12U County Cup Play-Offs and Area Leagues
- **17 September:** LTA Coach CPD: Great Group Coaching #3: 30+ Drills and Games to End Your Lesson at University of Reading. Find out more [here](#).
- **September:** Inclusive Padel Tour Event at Padel Maidenhead
- **4 October:** LTA Safe to Play National Safeguarding Conference. For more info and to register click [here](#).

**Find upcoming LTA Competitions in Berkshire here**

**Find upcoming LTA Coach Education Courses in Berkshire here**

## HAVE YOUR SAY

We've compiled a survey to find out more about how we can keep you updated about what's going on in tennis & padel in Berkshire.

We'd also like to welcome any open feedback about anything to do with your tennis & padel experiences in Berkshire. Please complete the open feedback question at the end of the survey to send us your thoughts.

**COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE**

## CONTACT US

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