

Tips for writing a good nomination

Last year we had over 1400 nominations and we are hoping to exceed that this year so in order for your nomination to stand out, you must explain and include evidence and clear examples of what makes your nominee worthy of recognition.

- Use specific examples to illustrate how your nominee meets each of the award criteria
- Provide evidence of what they have done and how they have done things
- A good nomination should describe as vividly and precisely as possible the difference the nominee's contribution has made. Whether you are nominating an individual or a club/venue think about the following:
 - How were things before they began?
 - How are they now?
 - What makes your nominee different from others doing the same thing?
- Show how your nominee has:
 - Contributed in a distinctive way to improving things for the benefit of others
 - Dedicated themselves to voluntary service and/or has made a significant impact in tennis
 - Shown innovation or creativity in delivering lasting results
- Show how your nominee has:
 - Earned the respect of their peers and become a role model in their club or venue
 - Produced sustained achievement through vision, determined application and hard work
- Do not just say that an achievement has had a widespread effect: describe what that effect has been and show why it has been important.
- Include a clear, direct and specific statement of why the nominee deserves recognition
- Keep it simple – remember that longer doesn't necessarily mean better. When presenting your nominee, keep your explanations clear and to the point.

Effective nominations often include nouns such as:

- Determination
- Drive
- Innovation
- Impact
- Ambassador
- Commitment
- Sustainability
- Creativity
- Zeal
- Respect
- Recognition
- Selflessness
- Performance

Adjectives such as:

- Trusted
- Persuasive
- Resourceful
- Tenacious
- Dedicated

- Inspirational
- Passionate
- Enthusiastic
- Supportive
- Admired

And phrases such as:

- Making a difference
- Going the extra mile
- Role model
- Overcoming obstacles
- Above and beyond

How to write nominations – some examples from 2017 British Tennis Award winners

Lifetime achievement

Helen joined the club in 1973, and since then has taken on more or less every role on the committee.

Before 1997, the club had around 100 members, but Helen supported a relocation project which saw the club double its membership. It now has 18 adult and junior teams, with an active club night and diverse coaching programme for all ages and abilities.

As Chair for over ten years, she was the major driver behind securing a £187,619 lottery grant and gained loans and sponsorship to fund the £300,000 development on the current site. As a result, she leaves a legacy that means the club features six floodlit courts and a sociable clubhouse for all to enjoy.

A true advocate for getting the younger generation into tennis, she was responsible for starting up a coaching programme for seven local schools. This has been rolling for over ten years and means 300 primary school children can enjoy free coaching from qualified coaches for six weeks each year. On top of this, she still finds time to have her own fun on court and previously captained the ladies team for many years.

- This nominee has been volunteering over many years for the benefit of others. It's very clear that she is a key person at the club and the nomination also makes clear the number of people who have benefited from her work and the legacy she will leave behind.

Volunteer of the Year

Raising £40,000 in 12 months to resurface park courts is no mean feat, but Elaine proved that where there's a will there's a way! Working closely with a small team of volunteers, the local council, schools, sponsors and businesses, Elaine and fellow fundraiser Neil Bates liaised with Wychavon District Council to match fund £30,000 and the remaining £10,000 was secured through generous donations and local fundraising initiatives for the whole community to engage with!

On top of her campaign, Elaine also raised funds to deliver low-cost 'pay as you go' tennis at the same park courts. Thanks to a partnership established with Droitwich Tennis Club, the coaching sessions are priced at £2 per person with all equipment provided, resulting to 80 new people taking up tennis – and many of them for the first time. She has also liaised with the local press to really drive awareness of the sessions so that more and more locals can get on court!

- This nominee has made a huge voluntary contribution over a 12 month period and has used her own initiative to do something that benefits a whole community and enables lots of people to play tennis.

Young Volunteer of the Year

After having a tough time at school, Jess turned to tennis to regain focus and has never looked back. She met the coaching team at Portsmouth Tennis Centre nearly two years ago and began playing regularly before she started coaching young girls in the Miss-Hits sessions. As a result, she built strong relationships with these players, which has had a positive impact on them returning week on week. Jess also assists with the weekly Downs Syndrome sessions and the players look forward to seeing her each week!

She widely supports all open days and events – in September she helped deliver a free roadshow open day where more than 420 new children played tennis for the first time. In 2017, she successfully completed the LTA Level 1 coaching qualification as she targets a career in tennis.

- This nominee has overcome adversity and grown in confidence to give something back in her own time which has benefited many children of different abilities and backgrounds.

Coach of the Year

Ashley's dedication to developing coach progression is unprecedented. Alongside his full time role as head coach at the Avenue Tennis in Portsmouth, he set up and is now lead mentor for a coach development scheme which was designed to mentor young coaches through the start of their tennis career. Ashley wrote and delivered a coaching programme building from 0 players in 2013 to over 520 players playing week in, week out in 2017.

Praised for his inclusivity, Ashley has had a great impact on grass roots tennis and on top of this he has been recognised as one of the youngest coaches to become a qualified tutor in 2017.

- This nominee has gone above and beyond to develop a mentoring programme for young coaches. The numbers provided show the impact he has made at the grass roots level of the sport.

Club of the Year

10 years ago Skipton Tennis Centre did not exist, but after much hard work and incredible commitment from those around it, the 5 court club has a thriving membership of over 250 players and a weekly coaching programme of 300 children. The driving force and inspiration for the club, Adam Cox, had a dream to build a tennis club that could service the whole of Craven with a membership base, coaching programme and strong community links. After negotiating the lease and a £75k loan from the LTA the dream started to become a reality. The initial project was a cost of a £102k. Adam sold his house to raise the capital needed to provide the extra £27k, and built the club...and the rest is history.

Skipton TC work very closely with the School Games Organiser, PE co-ordinators and the local council to set up school tennis activities. Over the past year they have delivered the following:

- Weekly lessons for 14 primary schools.
- Tennis open days for another 14 primary schools.
- Secondary school enrichment weeks /days for years 7-11.
- A work experience programme for the local secondary schools and colleges

They also provide a range of offers to invite players to attend the club, including 6 week coaching sessions at an introductory rate and free Friday's tennis for all in July. They offer a weekly disability programme led by a coach every Thursday morning and the local council, sports centre and schools help to promote this. Their school partnerships and disability programme really helps raise the club's profile within the local community, and helps foster the community-feel that is at the heart of everything they do. The club and initiatives have allowed over 4,000 people to experience the sport over the past decade.

- This nominee has taken the initiative to do something to help the community. They identified a need and started something from scratch to make things better for others. The club has been very successful: the figures in the nomination make clear the level of the impact he has had.

Community Award

Totton & Eling Tennis Centre is a friendly club with fantastic facilities for all to use and it goes out of its way to make tennis as accessible as possible for the local community.

The eight courts are constantly bustling, whether they're occupied by the 200 juniors and 75 adults who attend the weekly coaching programmes, the 130 members, 300 registered casual court hirers or hundreds of players who opt to 'pay-and play'.

The club has built strong relationships with local schools and over 2,000 students have been able to have fun on court thanks to its annual schools outreach programme. It offers teacher training sessions in association with New Forest School Sports Partnership to help youngsters get as much as they can from the game and last summer, it delivered a 'Go Hit It' project with three local secondary schools. This encouraged 496 young students to take part in various activities including lunchtime and after school clubs, curriculum coaching, competitions and casual 'turn up and play' sessions.

In 2017 it hosted Hampshire & IOW's Champion of Champions inter-club event, the Solent Cup competition between Southampton and Portsmouth Club doubles league winners and the New Forest Inter-School Competitions which saw 350 children take part. Each May, it welcomes over 200 people – many who are completely new to the game - to come down and enjoy tennis for free across two open days, one as part of the Great British Tennis Weekend, and the other in partnership with Totton & Eling Arts Festival.

Recently, the club introduced an electronic court booking system to allow non-members to access courts outside of 'manned' club hours. Its new community practice wall invites the people to practice tennis, football and cricket for free and its Community Café offers the opportunity for families to attend the centre informally, without the pressure of having to play.

Finally, all coaches are mentored and offered a pathway in to tennis coaching and management, and in turn are passionate about delivering fun coaching programmes such as Tennis for Kids, which saw 60 children sign up to the introductory six-week course in 2017.

- This nominee has strong community links and has grown its participation figures. It is well run and has found creative ways of engaging with its users.

Competition of the Year

Brand new for 2017, Cranleigh Grass Court Tennis Festival proved a massive hit with 246 entries for juniors aged between 8 – 18 years. The inaugural Grade 4 competition targeted players who competed regularly, as well as those entirely new to playing in competitions. The competition offered a festival package which included entry to the event as well as coaching clinic that ran alongside the comp. It also incorporated other LTA products such as Cardio Tennis and touch tennis.

Using nets from Wimbledon qualifying in Roehampton, Johnny (tournament director) and his team worked tirelessly to transform the cricket green in the village of Cranleigh into a week-long pop-up tennis festival. 12 full-sized grass courts and two touch tennis courts were created in a tight 24-hour timeframe.

The coordination of creating the venue from marking out courts to providing catering facilities for player and parents goes above and beyond most tournaments. The way the days were managed to incorporate all tennis elements and tough weather was done to a very high level.

It was lovely to see an event that really did have fun at the heart of it. A highlight for me was watching a girls match take place and one of the girls friends decided to help by being ball girl. It demonstrated how the majority of this tournament was being played by people who love and enjoy the game and was not a high pressure zone. The passion the tournament director had towards tennis and competitions is refreshing and infectious.

- This nominee has demonstrated brilliant innovation, is well organised and had a very successful first year as a new tournament with excellent feedback from its competitors.

Disability Award

Disability tennis is thriving in Great Britain, led by clubs like Desford Lawn Tennis Club. The club exemplifies how having a welcoming approach and providing accessible opportunities for people with a disability to play, volunteer or work in tennis, can help to open up the sport.

As part of the growing network of venues providing disability tennis opportunities that are supported by Great Britain's leading tennis charity the Tennis Foundation, the club really is a fantastic example of how tennis can be a sport that is inclusive and accessible to all.

Desford offers an extensive range of sessions for all ages, abilities and backgrounds due to strong connections with local businesses and members volunteering to support the sessions. These volunteers epitomise dedication and commitment, ensuring all players have positive experiences at the club. This inclusive approach has led to a significant increase in new members across all sessions within the last 12 months.

Specific sessions include a group for older players with audio and visual impairment and new hips and knees, a group for those with learning disabilities, tournaments for players on the autism spectrum from local schools, and a group for players and their families who are affected by cancer. One of the club's coaches, who has special needs himself, attends all of these sessions to help encourage all players to have fun on court.

On top of this, once players feel ready for a spot of competition, the club has run several fun tournaments, with medals presented by the Chief Executive of the Borough Council and the Chair of the Local Sport and Health Alliance.

Desford goes the extra mile to offer the best support to its players; many volunteers have attended sessions with Macmillan Cancer Support, so they can gain the best understanding of how to help participants on and off the court, and they've also engaged with Age UK and local doctors surgeries to promote the activities.

- This nominee is really benefiting the local community and making tennis inclusive, enabling people with different impairments to access tennis.

Education Award

Balcarras School goes above and beyond to help its pupils get the most out of tennis. Working closely with the on-site club, it offers endless opportunities for them to get stuck into the sport. The PE team coordinate teacher training with Charlton Kings Tennis Place's head coach, and together they are continually looking to grow participation at the school.

Balcarras offers a fantastic tennis schedule; every Year 7 – 11 pupil receives tennis sessions during the curriculum with house matches, lunchtime and after school clubs on offer. They have also worked hard to help students get a real buzz from tennis, by identifying keen players to represent the school; in 2017, 96 boys and 48 girls filled the minibuses to compete in local matches and county matches.

The school and club work in partnership to deliver free weekly early morning coaching sessions, which are enjoyed by over 40 pupils attending regularly over the summer term. After recognising a decline in Year 11 – 13 students playing tennis, the school encouraged them to integrate with the adult socials at Charlton Kings Tennis Place, which even resulted to pupils representing the club's league matches.

The partnership has also led to training up 20 LTA Tennis Leaders, who have all gone on to put their new coaching skills to the test by supporting at a primary school festival, the club's coaching sessions and Mini Tennis tournaments, and Cheltenham's Mini Tennis festival. Through the school's Duke of Edinburgh scheme, students have also been encouraged to volunteer across additional local tennis initiatives.

- This nominee demonstrates a varied tennis programme for its pupils that has gone from strength to strength after a decline was identified. There are many opportunities for the pupils to play and compete as well as to develop life skills through tennis leadership.