

LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2023:  
**NATIONAL FINALIST**  
**TENNIS FOR ALL**  
**JONATHAN MORGAN**  
CAERPHILLY TENNIS CLUB



# LTA TENNIS AWARDS 2023: NATIONAL FINALIST TENNIS FOR ALL JONATHAN MORGAN CAERPHILLY TENNIS CLUB

## A PIONEER IN BRINGING TENNIS TO UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS

Jonathan identified minority groups that could benefit from access to tennis. He ran the first Welsh Sensory Tennis pilot and has since gained funding to continue this weekly, with plans to pilot Sensory Tennis in care home settings. He worked with Van Community Council to run LTA Youth Start courses for 21 children from high deprivation areas, offering an affordable follow-on scheme.

He also ran special International Women's Day events, two Girl Set Match festivals and supports 10 female leaders in roles. Weekly participation is up by 17 women and 23 girls. More recently, the club ran its first Miss Hits course, followed by a girls-only LTA Youth Start course.

At the forefront of national campaigns, Jonathan spearheaded the club's involvement in Rainbow Laces and White Ribbon and produced social media content to support LGBTQ+ and Black History Months.

Jonathan has helped Caerphilly to win multiple awards over the past few years.







## AN INSPIRATIONAL INCLUSION CHAMPION

Jonathan embraces inclusivity. Championing the importance of being an active and visible ally, you can't miss his rainbow shoelaces and racket strings, demonstrating his support to the LGBTQ+ community.

Lack of disability tennis experience was no barrier for Jonathan, and he jumped at the chance to introduce Sensory Tennis. The success of this initiative is testament to his passion for ensuring everyone can enjoy tennis, and fellow coaches can now follow suit. Tennis activity has since been delivered as part of Sport Caerphilly's summer holiday disability camp provision.

Working with Van Community Council who funded LTA Start, he overcame the cost barrier for coaching and resources. Many children have continued to play through affordable follow-on offers which treat their situation sensitively.

Jonathan led the Wimbledon Open Day and ran the school roadshow, taking tennis to 400+ children who may have never watched it, let alone played.



## PROACTIVELY MAKING CHANGES TO CREATE A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

'Safe and welcoming' is interpreted differently by different people. Working first-hand with the Sensory Tennis group, Jonathan researched solutions and gained funding to purchase threshold ramps for wheelchair users. This ensured that sessions could continue inside in winter or in bad weather, and the clubhouse is now fully accessible.

Female-only sessions (1x Mini, 2x Teens, 1x Ladies) provide 25 juniors and 11 adults with a place to relax and connect. This is key to retention, particularly for teenage girls and women who are new to, or returning to, the sport. The sessions are highly focused on teamwork which yields engagement. The weekly junior programme welcomes 163 children, 49% of whom are girls (up from 41% last year).

Several players are part of the LGBTQ+ community. As the driving force behind multiple campaigns such as Rainbow Laces and LGBTQ+ History Month, the club is reputed as open and welcoming and has recently attended a local Pride festival. The club's involvement and commitment not only reaffirm its support but also helps educate fellow players. This results in a more positive, accepting, safe and welcoming environment.

Jonathan was nominated by Gareth Bray, a club member.

## CREATIVE TACTICS TO ENGAGE EXISTING AND NEW PLAYERS

Jonathan's creativity is evident at Sensory Tennis sessions. As traditional coaching methods are not always appropriate for the players' complex needs, he is innovative with activities and even makes his own teaching aids.

He produced Ladies S.E.T (Social. Exercise. Thrive) programme, specifically geared towards improvers and intermediates so they can develop their game and confidence.

The club hosted two special Girl Set Match festivals to celebrate the BJK Cup and inspire girls into fun, friendly team competition.

He created social media video connect for Rainbow Laces and LGBTQ+ and Black History Months, raising awareness of prominent tennis players, and their plights, positive impact and achievements on and off court.

**400+**  
**CHILDREN**  
ATTENDED THE WIMBLEDON  
OPEN DAY LED BY JONATHAN

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