



JOIN THE **TENNIS** VOLUNTEER **GROUP**

A GROWING, FRIENDLY ONLINE COMMUNITY

The Tennis Volunteer Community is a gated Facebook group that was set up in 2021 by the LTA and independent volunteer champions. Its aim is to provide an informal, transparent and helpful online space where volunteers from all over the country can connect, start conversations, exchange ideas and find answers.

BACKGROUND

Accessible to bona fide tennis volunteers, the community was established to provide a dedicated 24/7, self-serve hub. Diverse clubs, venues and volunteer teams are represented, sparking discussions on a variety of topics from floodlights to fundraising, to membership to maintenance. As member Alan Doherty says, "A problem shared is a problem halved."

Group content is not publicly viewable, and administrators ensure that only genuine volunteers participate. Numbers have increased weekly and currently stand at almost 500. As more volunteers come on board, more inspiration flows!



This group has been brilliant for bouncing ideas off people and gaining valuable and relevant experience of others."

Tamsin Hemming, community member



Many local club volunteers don't have the luxury of frequent insight into other venues, coaches and practices. If you feel you're making decisions in a bit of a vacuum, the forum offers a window into how clubs all over the country operate. Instead of asking a few local people, you can tap into the views of experts nationally."

Kay Gilbert, community member,
Avon Tennis

HOW THE TENNIS VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY WORKS

Anyone who volunteers within a tennis venue (including clubs, parks, universities and schools) is welcome to join this invaluable and inclusive community group to:

- share experiences, knowledge and best practice for yourself and your venue
- ask (and answer) questions without judgement
- get inspiration, air ideas and gather views
- gain a broader perspective, looking beyond 'local'
- find solutions and hacks including funding and budgeting
- build a nationwide network
- create a solid 'business case' to take back to a committee or stakeholders
- get up to speed on emerging trends and technology
- tackle tennis and facility challenges without feeling alone
- make more informed decisions
- access live online events, such as webinars, with other volunteers.

ON TOPIC AND ON-POINT

Whilst the LTA initiated the community, it's a grassroots group steered by the members, united through the desire to optimise the tennis experience, make progression and create a sustainable future for the game.

Everything and anything relating to tennis and the running of a tennis venue are up for discussion. There's no requirement to be an active participant; you can observe and benefit passively if you prefer. Navigation is quick and easy using the search function and shortlist of recent topics. Any commercial recommendations are vetted by the team of volunteer champions.

The group holds "live" online events where members debate specific topics of interest. These have included:

- Relations between venue officials or committees and their tennis professionals
- How to recruit more volunteers at venues
- Reaching out to schools, colleges, parks and your wider community.



TAP INTO TENNIS EXPERIENCES ACROSS THE COUNTRY:

Join discussion threads, bounce ideas around and learn from the experiences of other volunteers at clubs and venues around the country, anytime, anywhere.

To be part of the Tennis Volunteer Community, volunteers should connect to the Facebook Group by [clicking here](#).

If you encounter any problems joining the group, or are interested but do not have access to Facebook, please email tennis@eceltd.co.uk for support.



The group is really useful for gathering ideas, suggestions and sharing best practice. It's very friendly and enormously helpful."

Sylvia Gilmore, community member



The Tennis Volunteer Community is a really great place for sharing problems, knowledge and information. Very refreshing to see a friendly group on social media that gives focused, honest opinions."

Jax Cain, community member



It's really helpful to be able to get ideas or ask questions about how other clubs deal with certain situations. It's also good for supplier recommendations. The webinar topics are relevant and provide another opportunity to get ideas and thoughts of other like-minded volunteers. Thanks!"

Susan Pettigrew, community member



Excellent pool of very knowledgeable tennis people – an easy way of getting relevant and useful information. Thank you."

Peter Tolaini, community member