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Double delight sees club mark anniversary in style

TENNIS

ONE of Coventry's largest tennis clubs celebrated a landmark anniversary in style by picking up two top prizes at an awards ceremony.

Beechwood Lawn Tennis Club enjoyed a double win at Warwickshire Lawn Tennis Association's annual awards, scooping 'Club of the Year' and 'James Cooper Performance Coach of the Year', in the 50th year at its clubhouse in Beechwood Avenue, Earlsdon.

Over 180 tennis enthusiasts gathered at Birmingham Moseley Rugby Club to celebrate the achievements of players, coaches, and volunteers in the region.

Paul Fenner is president of Beechwood Lawn Tennis Club and John Hales is head coach.

The pair have more than 12 years of combined experience at Beechwood, and have seen it grow into a thriving

community club with over 300 members, boasting the highest number of teams competing in Warwickshire across all ages.

Paul said: "We are thrilled to have picked up two titles at this year's WALTA Awards. It's been the perfect way to celebrate Beechwood's 50th year at our clubhouse in Earlsdon, which has undergone a lot of changes over the years.

"We've seen it transformed from a small wooden building to a modern facility powered by solar panels as we look to become self-sufficient. We've also added to this with a fully refurbished bar area and new bi-fold doors, all of which were paid by the club.

"Our club is run by volunteers who maintain the high standards of facilities and offerings at the club such as regular quiz nights, junior nights, social nights, cardio tennis and a range of tournaments making it a real heart of the community."



John Hales and Paul Fenner, head coach and president of Beechwood Tennis Club, with performance coach Tom Holmes show off the prestigious awards

Beechwood's performance coach, Tom Holmes, completed the double win, claiming the award for the 'James Cooper Performance Coach of the Year'.

John said: "Tom is a great example to any young coach, young player or even senior coach as his drive to be

the best is second to none. He has been a coach at Beechwood for five years and has developed into one of the most ambitious and knowledgeable coaches in the area. He regularly travels to Nottingham on his days off to work with the regional performance team to develop as a coach."