

Lesley Cundy Stepped Down from Chair of Berkshire LTA

Lesley Cundy stepped down as BLTA Chair at [the AGM](#) after serving her 9 years maximum.



Lesley's knowledge of tennis is encyclopaedic. She is passionate about promoting tennis at grassroots and ensuring as many people as possible have the opportunity to play the game at whatever level is right for them. She has been a huge advocate for tennis in schools and still organises the LTA Secondary school's competition. She has enabled the LTA teachers coaching course to be part of the teacher training curriculum at Reading University and has been instrumental in facilitating Mental Health tennis and getting wheelchair tennis sessions off the ground. She has overseen the Club loan and grant schemes which so many have benefitted from and managed the County & Regional Awards on our behalf. As the chair of the County Management committee, she has guided colleagues through Risk registers, Covid policies, Strategies, Facility investments, Audits, improved county training opportunities, and everything in between. We took an opportunity to thank her for her excellent leadership which has brought about significant improvements in the tennis landscape in Berkshire. She will be our EDI lead and will continue to work with the Dan Maskell Trust. Find out more on what BLTA have achieved in 2023 on [BLTA Chair's Annual Report 2023](#)

LTA Councillor Representing Berkshire (Sandi Procter, LTA President speech)

"Lesley joined the LTA Council in 2014 as the Councillor for Berkshire. She was immediately appointed to the Tennis Development committee because of her expertise in grassroots tennis, particular around education and disabilities tennis. She worked for 9 years on the workstreams for Coach Engagement, County Cup competition and Education & young people and worked for 7 years as workstream lead for Competitions & Officiating. She was appointed to the LTA Board in 2020 and represented the Board on the appointments of the National Coach Development centres. She led new Councillor's' induction for the last 3 years and co-created the 'Hello Councillors' resource. She was on the original project group which created the councillor's values and subsequently led the updates 2 years standing ovation ago to add the Inclusion value. She was Chair of the Central and East Regional forums for 2 years and has been a trustee for the Dan Maskell Tennis Trust for 4 years. Lesley has been a panellist on the National LTA Awards and was the LTA Ambassador for the Surbiton Trophy, the pre-Wimbledon grass court event. She frequently presented trophies at various tournaments around the country, and this included county and regional LTA awards." Lesley received a standing ovation from all the LTA Councillors and LTA staff at the National Tennis Centre.



2023 LTA Tennis Awards and BLTA AGM



After a great AGM, with lots of updates and changes around the County, BLTA announced the winners of the LTA Awards from Berkshire and also had a few special awards to give out, including commendations for some categories, High Commended Rising Stars and an Outstanding Contribution to Berkshire Tennis.

Click the link [HERE](#) for documents relating to the AGM.

Newly Appointed Team Members



Robin Walter – NEW BLTA CHAIR

chair@berkshiretennis.org.uk

Rob moved back into the area in 2023 for family reasons having spent the previous 9 years living in South Wales. Before he moved to South Wales in 2014 Rob was the Chairman at Shinfield Tennis Club and led the £250k development there in 2012 which added new courts, club house and floodlights as well as improved parking facilities to the facility. Whilst in South Wales he served on the Llanelli Tennis Club committee where he led and completed the Tennismark programme for the club having done the same for Shinfield when it was Clubmark. In addition, in the past he has worked with the LTA and Tennis Wales and continues to play tennis on a regular basis. His aim is to visit as many clubs as possible in the next few months.

Nigel Mann – Berkshire 10U Performance Lead

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Nigel Mann started the part time role of Berkshire 10U Performance Lead in September 2023. Prior to this, he was Head Coach at Maidenhead LTC (a LTA Performance Centre) working with players and designing a performance programme to equip them to compete at Regional, National and International level (including Tarbes and the Orange Bowl). He will lead and coordinate the County Training Programme for 8/9/10-year-olds and select teams to participate in the various County Cup competitions. Berkshire LTA has also set up a Talent ID system to identify younger players showing potential to attend County Training and represent Berkshire LTA. In addition to his County Responsibilities, Nigel will liaise with LTA Coaches and Managers identifying players to be included within the 10U LTA National Pathway. He will support the Berkshire Clubs and Coaches helping them be aware of performance standards at 8/9/10 level and the programme to enable the players to compete at County and Regional levels.

“I enjoy helping players fulfil their tennis potential within the competitive environment. If players or their parents require support or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will help you find the right solution to enable you and your coach achieve your aims”.

Caroline Atkinson – Berkshire Junior Competitions Lead

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In this new role, Caroline is looking to increase the number of competitive opportunities in Berkshire available to players of all standards. Her initial focus has been encouraging more clubs to both enter and complete the Play Your Way to Wimbledon tournament, with winners from each venue progressing to the County stage in early summer. She is also working with coaches to run another Red Ball Grand Prix, which allows players aged 8&U to get some fun competition experience between April and July at venues around the county. For those players who took part in 2023 but are not ready for Grade 5 events, a smaller scale Orange Ball Grand Prix will also run. These will be advertised soon (via Lara).

Although Caroline has retired from playing tennis, she is still passionate about the sport and has managed Junior teams in the Berkshire league for over 20 years. She wants to ensure that planned events run smoothly so players get a positive experience and want to return again.

Lara Suarez-Neves – Berkshire Tennis Social Media and Women & Girls Tennis Lead

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As the social media coordinator and lead for women & girls tennis, Lara brings together her passion for tennis and background as a coach with her day job as a branding and graphic designer together in her dual role for Berkshire Tennis. She manages the social media presence of Berkshire Tennis, aiming to showcase, celebrate and share what goes on in the county at all levels – from grassroots programmes through to the achievements and opportunities of players at the top end of the game. Lara is passionate about helping to open the sport up to people from all parts of the community, and through her role as women & girls tennis lead, aims to ensure that opportunities and support for growth are available wherever possible.

Please do get in touch with Lara for any opportunities your venue or programme would like to share with the county tennis community, particularly competition & employment opportunities and any women & girls focused sessions you may be running. She's also open to connecting with venues and individuals who need advice with their own social media & digital presence.

IMPORTANT – Reporting Safeguarding Concerns & Social Media Posting

All registered venues and accredited coaches associated with venues should have received the **latest** newsletter from the LTA. **It is an important one because it highlights a number of resources and** points that are vital concerning **Safeguarding, social media posting** for example, sharing photos of u18's on social media without their parent's permission is prohibited, plus information about reporting Safeguarding concerns. For support or questions contact BLTA Safeguarding safeguarding@berkshiretennis.org.uk or the LTA safeguarding@lta.org.uk Click [latest LTA Newsletter](#) to find out more

Tennis Factory – Free Loan to Clubs/Coaches/Schools

office@berkshiretennis.org.uk



Berkshire LTA offers **a free loan** of 'Tennis Factory Equipment' – equipment designed to enable the game of tennis to be experienced in a wide range of facilities and recreational spaces for young people and adults of all abilities.

Berkshire Clubs Dunlop Ball Offer



Berkshire clubs receive FREE Dunlop balls on the basis that they purchase the agreed quantity of balls as listed below. This club ball incentive is only valid for the purchasing of Dunlop balls from official Berkshire Tennis Dunlop ball retailers. More information on Berkshire website: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/BerkshireLTA/Venues/Offers>

Tennis Volunteer Community

This is a community group for anyone who volunteers within a tennis venue including tennis clubs, parks, universities, and schools. 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. To find out more about the group click [HERE](#) Read [March Newsletter](#)

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