

Somerset LTA Small Grants and Loan Scheme

The Somerset LTA Small Grants & Loan Scheme is available to registered venues to help the development of tennis and SLTA would like to encourage venues to apply.

SLTA Funding is also available for coaches and future coaches who are committed to supporting Tennis in Britain by assisting with the cost of the course.

Coaching

The Council continues to work with Somerset based coaches to provide financial assistance to extend their qualifications. During the financial year, seven individuals had up to 50% of their course fees paid by the Council when they undertook training for Level 1 to Level 4 qualifications. £1,700 was spent during the year and £7,500 has been budgeted to be spent next year. This will include the support of an apprenticeship where GLL (now everyoneactive) has partnered the County in the past. If a suitable new partner can be found, £5,000 is available.

Marketing

The Council supported 9 clubs last year and contributed almost £3,000 towards club-run marketing events aimed at increasing membership. The activities supported were mostly open days and associated costs including advertising and preparation of marketing materials. Many clubs find this type of event essential to attract new members and often arrange their event to coincide with the LTA promoted Big Tennis Weekends.

All Clubs in Somerset can apply for a match funded grant of up to £500, each year to assist with this type of event and we look forward to seeing as many venues as possible taking up the opportunity next year.

Disability Tennis

Disability tennis continues to attract funding from the Council with £1,000 paid out this year to part fund the purchase of a new wheelchair for a talented individual who is making her way in the sport.

Facilities

The largest grants (normally up to £3,000 but in some cases £5,000) are reserved for venues wishing to extend the facilities available and so encourage more tennis to be played by more people. The match funding requirement of the grant means that applicants must make a significant contribution themselves and so suitable projects can be few. However, over £20,000 was paid out to 8 clubs during the year. If in doubt, do ask for advice and Council members will be only too happy to discuss and understand the Club's plans and look at how the Council can best assist.

The Council's policy is to avoid paying for maintenance projects, where venues are expected to ensure they hold an adequate sinking fund to cover such works, but where an initiative involves improvements that will see the Club able to promote more tennis to more people then the application will receive a sympathetic hearing. In certain cases, a loan may be the best option and here the monies provided will eventually be returned and made available for other venues to use in the future.

If you wish to apply for a small grant or loan, please contact the County Office for a form via countyadmin@somersetlta.co.uk