



King George Recreation Ground Achieves National Recognition

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the Tennis Foundation have announced that King George Recreation Ground in Bushey has been awarded 'Beacon' status as part of the AEGON Parks Tennis programme in recognition of their high quality, affordable community tennis programmes.

The announcement was made following the development of the 3 Tenn community coaching programme which has now been running for nearly two years and become very popular with both children and adults in the community.

Presenting the prestigious Beacon plaque, Roger Draper, Chief Executive of the LTA said: "Helping more people play tennis is a priority for the LTA and as the grass court season reaches its climax it's always great to get about and see all the efforts that are being made in the community to get more people playing the sport.

"I hope all of the Bushey community are inspired to pick up a racket at this weekend's open day and remember how much fun playing tennis can be."

The park which is run in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council joins 132 sites across the country to achieve the national accolade which recognises the best community-focussed facilities offering free and affordable tennis as part of the AEGON Parks Tennis programme.

To achieve this status, facilities must also offer access to quality, affordable coaching as well as regular competitions for all ages and abilities.

David Shann, Head Coach and 3Tenn Tennis Director said: "The aims of 3Tenn are to work with local authorities such as Hertsmere Borough Council to provide affordable and sustainable opportunities for more people to play more tennis in parks and schools by forming teams in their local communities."

Cefyn Jones, Head of PE at Falconer School and pupils joined the park for its presentation this morning, he said: "Our special needs school is successfully delivering a tennis programme for boys who otherwise would never have the opportunity to develop their potential in this wonderful sport.

"We are not just looking to focus on the sport during the Wimbledon fortnight; we want to establish a grass roots legacy that opens the game to as many as possible within our schools and our wider communities."

Tennis Development Manager for Hertfordshire, Leo Tutt added: "The 3Tenn programme is fantastic and offers great opportunities to both children and adults alike. It provides low cost opportunities to those who wouldn't normally get involved or come along to a tennis club. Getting more people playing, we need more quality tennis facilities like this, offering the local community a fun, affordable tennis experience all year round and the LTA and Tennis Foundation are working hard with its partners to achieve this."

To celebrate the AEGON Parks announcement and Beacon status award the club will be hosting a free open day on Sunday 26 June between 10am and 1pm. Activities will include fastest serve speed gun, beat the coach and cardio drills. AEGON Parks Tennis aims to increase community access to tennis in parks and communities nationwide. Delivered by the LTA and Tennis Foundation, AEGON Parks Tennis is a key programme in British tennis' drive to increase participation and grow tennis at all levels. The long-term aim is to have an AEGON Parks Tennis site acting as a centre of community tennis excellence in each of the local authority areas in Britain.

To find a playing partner, a local court or coach, register at www.allplaytennis.com

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the national governing body for British tennis, which supports and governs the sport
- AEGON Parks Tennis, delivered by the LTA in partnership with the Tennis Foundation, is helping to increase access to tennis in parks and local communities. AEGON Parks Tennis is part of British tennis' commitment to increase opportunities in the sport and grow the game at all levels
- The Tennis Foundation is Britain's foremost tennis charity and works in close partnership with the LTA
- AEGON is Lead Partner of British Tennis, and supports the game at all levels from grassroots programmes such as AEGON Schools Tennis and AEGON Parks Tennis, through to supporting British talent in the AEGON FutureStars programme and Team AEGON. It is also title sponsor for AEGON Championships at Queen's Club, AEGON Classic and the AEGON International. For further information visit www.aegontennis.co.uk
- To find a playing partner, a local court or coach, register at www.allplaytennis.com
- For more information on the LTA and British tennis, visit: www.lta.org.uk
- For more information on the Tennis Foundation visit www.tennisfoundation.org.uk