



UNIVERSITY TENNIS CLUB SUCCESS STORY

‘When I look back on my university experience, MY TIME PLAYING TENNIS STANDS OUT THE MOST’

Edinburgh University Tennis Club

BACKGROUND

Edinburgh University Tennis Club currently has over 350 student members, and is passionate about making tennis fun and creating more opportunities for players to get involved. The club’s weekly programme caters for all abilities, from beginners to performance athletes.

By listening to student feedback, the club has been able to create a schedule that meets the needs of the students, whatever their level, with opportunities for coaching, social tennis, and competitive match play.



INITIATIVES

One of the aims of the club is to be inclusive and welcoming to everyone. This year, the club has expanded its programme to offer more sessions each week than before, with sessions for everyone and welcoming both students and non-students.

The club works to remove as many barriers as possible, providing equipment to those who need it and working to ensure all needs can be accommodated. The club has also had a fund for the past few years which helps people to pay for their membership if they are struggling.

In collaboration with East of Scotland, the club has introduced an Integrated Training Programme, involving the top university players training with the top juniors in the country with high quality coaching and facilities. This has offered a high-performance programme to all participants and encourage healthy competition and higher standards.

The University has a number of charity events throughout the year, the biggest one being the 24 hour outdoor tennis marathon (braving the Scottish elements!). The committee put together a schedule for 24 hours with different sessions including: doubles, games, social tennis, wheelchair tennis, pickleball and many more. This event has been a huge success both with current students, alumni and the local community.

SUCCESSSES



To cope with demand, the club has introduced a development team within BUCS competitions, as well as increasing the number of teams competing in BUCS. To engage with the local community and build relationships, the club has participated in a number of friendly matches against different opposition, providing players with good match experience whilst also giving them the opportunity to meet players at local clubs.

The club has invested in two wheelchairs which are free to use, in order to give those who may not have been able to or previously considered having a go at wheelchair tennis the opportunity to do so.

Edinburgh University has many opportunities internally and externally in the local community for coaching. Within the university, there are opportunities to help or lead sessions on the court, and externally the club has many coaches who are working at clubs in the local community. Off-court the club has been promoting the opportunities available from the LTA to attend coaching, line judge, referee or court supervisor courses.

The university has funding available to help students with the cost of these courses to encourage participation, resulting in more students taking these courses and helping with sessions at the university.

"The club has had a significant positive impact on my life, both on and off the court. Volunteering as a helper for the coach has been a particularly rewarding experience... Additionally, the club has become a home away from home for me. As someone who is always on the court in my country, finding a similar environment here has been wonderful. The camaraderie and supportive atmosphere of the club have made it a special place for me".

KEY TIPS FOR RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL UNIVERSITY TENNIS CLUB?

- ✓ Ensure a strong presence at welcome week and sports fairs, to promote a good first impression to first years
- ✓ Run open days during the first week of term, to allow anyone to come down to meet the committee and current members and play some tennis
- ✓ Personalised handovers for each committee role, to ensure incoming committee members can hit the ground running
- ✓ Offer as many sessions as possible for as many abilities as possible, to be inclusive for all and remove barriers to participation
- ✓ Run activities throughout the year off-court to build relationships within the club. One example EULTC does is a mental health walk, encouraging members to attend a walk and bring friends to spend the day having fun in the hills around Edinburgh, taking their minds off exams and university for the day

FOLLOW US FOR MORE

LTA, The National Tennis Centre
100 Priory Lane, Roehampton
London SW15 5JQ

T: 020 8487 7000
E: info@lta.org.uk
www.lta.org.uk

