

ADVANTAGE ESSEX (AE) GRANT FUNDING INFORMATION PACK

Introduction

This fund has been set up to assist **Advantage Essex** (AE) clubs in the County.

It is a grant scheme designed to encourage tennis development in Essex. The categories available under this scheme include tournament support, facility enhancement, mini tennis, tennis education, club development/promotion, technical advice costs, and defibrillators. The principle of a Club making a significant contribution will apply to all applications in categories 2-8.

It should be noted that this fund is not intended to be used for any sort of Capital Expenditure or general club maintenance, e.g. court and floodlight renewal costs or any expenditure that is vital to playing the game of tennis i.e. nets, posts, floodlighting, perimeter fencing etc.

These types of expenditure however may be suitable for funding under the AE Loan Scheme, for loan scheme information please email funding@essextennis.org.uk.

These categories are continually monitored and adapted according to changing priorities and the needs of tennis clubs in Essex. Applications for grants by clubs, (not individuals) in categories 2-8 will need to be made on a simple form which can be downloaded from our website www.essextennis.com or requested from janice@essextennis.org.uk.

Procedure

All applications must be made electronically using the online form, and emailed to Janice@essextennis.org.uk who will be able to assist any club prior to submission of an application if required.

The Essex Tennis Funding Committee will consider all applications on a quarterly basis. The deadlines for submitting applications are **31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December** each year. Wherever possible clubs will be notified as to the outcome of their applications within one calendar month of the deadline date, if successful a claim form will be sent, and payment will be made, by bacs within two weeks of the claim form being returned to Essex Tennis.

Conditions

- 1.** The Club must be a fully paid up member of "Advantage Essex," and commit to remain a member for three years from date of the grant.
- 2.** The Club will make every effort to have 100% of their senior and junior members signed up to the British Tennis Membership Scheme [BTM] and encourage members to Opt-In to the Wimbledon Ballot.
- 3.** The Club, unless they already do, will seriously consider employing an LTA Accredited+ Coach for an appropriate number of hours each month to enhance any development work at the Club.
- 4.** Payment of grants will be made by BACS directly to the Clubs account, unless specifically directed otherwise in writing by either the Club Secretary or Treasurer.

5. Grant categories 2-8 are limited to **two applications per financial year which runs from 1st October-30th September and** each application should be for a different category (except for category 5 where two applications may be submitted in one financial year). Two applications may be submitted in one quarter providing they are for different categories (except for category 5).

6. If demand for these grants exceeds funds allocated, the Funding Committee have discretion to cap applications, by club and/or area of support. Budgets for each category will be monitored by the Funding Committee and amounts allocated for each grant area may be subject to change.

Whilst not a grant condition, we strongly advise clubs to purchase an automated defibrillator for their venue. This easy to use equipment has already been instrumental in saving lives, as an AE member your club can purchase an IPAD AED at reduced cost using an AE grant. Please use the link below to purchase and claim back up to £500 of the cost.

<https://www.tennisdefibs.org/>

Grant Categories

1. Grants for Tournament Support

AE Clubs hosting Essex Tennis sanctioned **external** tournaments with **online entry** upon successfully uploading the event via the LTA will be able to apply quarterly for tournament grants as outlined below. The club will need to **complete a claim form** at the end of each quarter (March, June, September, December) and relevant payments will be made into the clubs account by BACS in April, July, October and January

Grade/type	Amount per day /event
Mini Red/Orange/Green/Grade 5/6	£ 40 (per day)
Grade 4	£ 50 (per day)
Grade 3	£ 60 (per day)

2. Grants for Tournament Enhancement and Enhancing Club Facilities

The objective of this category is for the enhancement of existing facilities. Examples include the provision of a TV, Wi-Fi, table tennis/pool table, singles sticks, umpires' chairs, scoreboards, club safety/security, practise walls, changing room upgrades, flooring etc.

For Clubs hosting an external LTA sanctioned tournament within the past year there will be a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or £1,500, (Whichever is the lower). For other Clubs there will be a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or maximum of £1,000 (Whichever is the lower).

Please note this category is not for the maintenance, major refurbishment, the upkeep of current facilities or for items that would normally be regarded as capital expenditure. Clearly the difference between major refurbishment and enhancement of existing facilities is sometimes difficult to determine, the decision on this will be decided by the Grants Panel. To be flexible, where the panel find it difficult to make a determination they will in circumstances when they consider it appropriate make a without prejudice award of half of the amount that is requested.

3. Grants for increasing tennis programmes and activity at clubs

The objective of this category is to assist clubs to increase and enhance new programme activity at the Club for example mini tennis, junior tennis, cardio tennis etc, by providing funding for equipment (**this**

category is not intended for replacement of old equipment but for equipment purchased to increase activity in club programmes).

This could include rackets, balls, nets, court line markings, mini and low compression balls etc. In this category there is a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or a maximum of £500 (whichever is the lower). Funds towards the construction of a new Mini Tennis Court will also be considered; under this category a grant of 50% of the project cost, or up to £1,000 (whichever is lower). This can be in conjunction with an AE Loan application.

4. Club Promotion, Marketing and Administration

The objective of this category is to assist clubs to increase their self-promotion and to look at new ways of marketing and targeting and attracting new members. It also includes systems to assist general club administration and membership fee collection. Examples include creation of a club website, use of court booking and clubhouse management systems, marketing costs for open days and general club promotions and improving venue signage.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the project cost, or a maximum of £300 (Whichever is the lower).

5. Grants for Tennis Education

The objective of this category is as follows

- To assist those wishing to embark on a career in coaching or upgrade their coaching skills.
- To enable **volunteers** to undertake the following courses and workshops; refereeing, tournament organisation, safeguarding, first aid, defibrillator familiarisation.
- To enable volunteers to attend courses to improve their skills/knowledge relevant to their club.

This category **does not cover coach or referee costs associated with accreditation renewal**, and all courses will need to be approved by the Essex Tennis. The application must be supported and applied for by the club. There will be a maximum grant per participant, for Coach Education of 33 % of the appropriate Course cost, or a maximum of £600. (Whichever is the lower), subject to a maximum of 2 candidates per application (**it is suggested that the remainder of the course cost is shared equally between the Club and the course applicant**).

6. Grants for Club Development/Promotion Programmes (not equipment)

The objective of this category is to “kick start” activities in schools, parks and community sites linked to the host club, this will usually be for one term of activity, and it is **strongly** suggested a charge for the activity is made even if nominal. Grants are available for reasonable venue costs (if external to club premises), coach, equipment and marketing costs. The application must be supported and applied for by a club.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the **Net Programme costs**, or a maximum of £400 (Whichever is the lower).

7. Grants for Court Related Technical Advice

The objective of this category is to assist with costs involved in engaging the services of professional court specialists. Specialists who can advise the club on court related issues such as cleaning, restoration, resurfacing or new surfaces and new courts, or advice with design and/or planning, or condition surveys. The category can also be used for floodlighting issues or facility projects such as clubhouse renovation or new building projects.

The application must be supported and applied for by the club.

There will be a maximum grant of 50% of the net cost of the advice obtained or a maximum of £200 (Whichever is the lower). The work will need to be carried out by a SAPCA registered company and a copy of the invoice for the work undertaken will be required.

8. Grants for Defibrillators.

Grants for new defibrillators are available of up to 50% of the cost or a maximum of £500 (whichever is the lower). These can be ordered via the link below and then costs claimed back (as above) by contacting janice@essextennis.org.uk.

<https://www.tennisdefibs.org/>

On purchase of an IPAD AED through the above scheme AE clubs can arrange for a basic defibrillator/CPR training course to held at a club's venue, with costs up to £100 being claimed back. Please contact janice@essextennis.org.uk for further details.

For the past five years we have also assisted AE clubs with costs for LTA organised "open days" currently branded Nature Valley Big Tennis Weekends (NVBTW). For the current financial year clubs hosting a NVBTW can apply for an AE grant of up to £200 for hosting, details are on the link below.

<https://www.lta.org.uk/workforce-venues/tennis-venue-support/nature-valley-big-tennis-weekends>

If you wish to claim for 2020 please contact janice@essextennis.org.uk and request a NVBTW grant claim form.