

THE
DEVON LTA
COUNTY AWARDS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
AEGON BRITISH TENNIS AWARDS

25th JANUARY 2017

County Awards 2016 presented 25th January 2017

All the nominees are so well deserving that we felt it was important that the reasons for their nominations should be shared with you. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to make these nominations and help us to recognise and honour those people and places that make your experience of our sport that much better.

* * * * *

10 & Under Player of the Year nominations

1. Jessica Johnson – Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre

Whilst still only 9 Jessica was playing up in 10 & Under events in 2016 having achieved an orange 1* rating. She always shows a great attitude towards training and is both a good athlete and sportsperson.

- Represented Devon at 10 & Under County Cup and won a lot of matches!
- 10 & Under semi-finalist at Devon County Championships.
- Has won a series of Grade 3 events and been accepted to compete in Grade 2 events throughout the year.
- Jessica has been invited to attend regional training camps and was ranked in the top 20 on the Summer National leaderboards at both 9 & Under and 10 & Under.

2. Julian Hayter– ARC

Over the past 12 months Julian's Tennis has improved considerably. Despite being 10 & Under he has been part of 14 & Under performance programme at ARC for the past year. Over that time Julian has shown a commitment and passion to his tennis far beyond his own years and far beyond that of his older peers. He has rarely missed a session over the past year and has demonstrated a high level of focus and determination in the sessions. This determination has helped him to significantly develop his own technical ability and tactical knowledge of the game. He also somehow manages to balance his tennis with the multitude of training he undertakes as a promising county cricket player.

He shows a real commitment to playing in competition. As well as representing the club in Aegon Team Tennis and being undefeated in both singles and doubles, he has competed where possible in as many 10 & Under events as were available to him both here in North Devon and further afield. The pinnacle of his achievements this year was winning the 10 & Under County Closed event and becoming Devon Champion – an achievement which though he was immensely proud of, could not have been more modest about. He capped off this season by being invited to join the County 12U Boys Academy (County training).

Junior Player of the Year nominations

1. Ben Johnson – Exmouth Tennis & Fitness Centre

Ben had a great 2016. He has a great attitude and work rate on and off the court and is a great all round athlete!

- 12 & Under Devon County Champion.
- Represented Devon at the 12 & Under and 14 & Under county cups.
- Attended Regional Training and National Training Camps this year for 13 & Under players.
- Won various Grade 3 Regional Level tournaments at 12 & Under.
- Accepted in to Tennis Europe events and Grade 2s at 12 & Under.
- In the top 8 in the UK at 11 & Under.

2. Pierce Widdecombe – Millfield School

Pierce has represented the County at all age groups as a junior from 10 & Under to 18 & Under and has always been a committed County player with a great attitude. He will play at No.1 for the County at 18 & Under in the upcoming County Cup. Due to school commitments (currently at Millfield) he was unable to play in the winter County Cup where he was also due to play at No.1. He finished the year ranked No.1 in Devon at 18 & Under and Open and 5th in the South West region at 18 & Under.

Pierce is nominated as junior player of the year not only for that but also for his continued progression into the senior game qualifying for numerous open British Tour events and making the quarter finals of the Exeter event. He has continued to work hard and improve and will figure in the senior County team going forward.

Community Venue Award nominations

1. Tarka Tennis Centre

Over many years Tarka has been intrinsically involved in all the local schools delivering many different strategies to get everyone into tennis no matter what their age or physical ability. Their schools festivals see approximately 2500 children attending each year and the schools tournaments have approximately 800 children taking part each year. The Centre is always thinking of new ways to attract new people into playing, for example offering a low cost membership which gives indoor social tennis throughout the week. They run over 50 events each year giving local players competition on their doorstep. Tarka has also developed an Aegon Pro Event which they use to promote tennis to everyone locally through TV, radio and other media channels looking to inspire our young players.

Tarka has developed its own "Everyone for tennis" & "Every Teen for Tennis" brands which run throughout the year offering new players the chance to play tennis at low cost. This has seen hundreds take part over the last few years. Exit routes onto the coaching programme now see the weekly programme with 779 people playing each week. There are streams of programmes for all ages & abilities all aimed at keeping people playing.

2. Okehampton Tennis Club

The coaches have put a lot effort into getting the courts upgraded, entering the Devon Youth Games, promoting the Tennis Club within the community and helping at an affordable cost to develop the skills of young kids and juniors with fun games of tennis or ball games on the courts.

The Club often have free event days where adults and children can come along and try tennis on their new courts. They have organised a membership which helps with getting people on board on a regular basis and they teach young kids in a fun way so they love tennis.

Education Award

Nominee – Atlantic Coast Co-Operative Trust (ACCT)

Atlantic Coast Co-Operative Trust (ACCT) is a local trust of 7 primary schools who work together to provide their pupils with more opportunities. As Head Coach at Atlantic Racquet Centre the Trust and I managed to form a strong link to provide tennis to as many of their pupils as possible through in-school coaching, after school clubs and festival visits to the centre.

The 7 ACCT schools have been so pro-active in promoting and supporting tennis within their schools and communities as well as promoting the work done by the near-by Atlantic Racquet Centre. They have jumped at any opportunity offered to them to give the children more opportunities to play tennis and have always been totally supportive of the Centre and our shared mission with the LTA to get more people playing more tennis, more often. Each of the 7 schools has established an after-school tennis club and sent teams to inter-school competitions as well as having our coaches in to deliver weekly in-school curricular P.E Tennis sessions.

A total of approximately 670 pupils over the past 12 months has had weekly tennis sessions.

ACCT is a fantastic community organisation here in Bideford who have embraced the Atlantic Racquet Centre and tennis in an unprecedented manner. They are truly champions for the sport and deserve to be recognised for their above and beyond commitment and support to promoting tennis in education.

Young Coach of the Year

Nominee – Tom Vinall – ARC

Tom started his role as head coach in September 2015. In that time he has had a huge impact at our facilities. In September 2015 our footfall was c. 120 per week. By June 2016 this has increased to over 450 per week. This has been achieved through the implementation of a fantastic tennis programme which has been developed by Tom's endless enthusiasm. For example, our mini / junior programme has grown from offering a bi-weekly Saturday

morning session to a whole range of options for all players. More impressively, Tom has single-handedly built relationships with local schools through an outreach programme. In the last academic year Tom has been to 12 schools and delivered tennis to over 1000 pupils, providing curricular P.E coaching sessions, running after school Tennis Clubs, and running schools competitions & Tennis Festivals. Suitably impressed, many of these children have now taken up tennis and attend sessions at ARC with Tom and his team of coaches. He has also got many of their parents playing by running Tennis Xpress courses alongside their children's coaching sessions. Tom has also had a huge impact in helping us to raise the profile of Atlantic Racquet Centre and tennis in general in Devon. His video submitted for the Davis Cup Legacy programme was a huge hit and used by the LTA at all their legacy team training days and his involvement in arranging the Davis Cup Trophy Tour to ARC was paramount to the success of the day which saw over 900 people attend the events of the day. He is a huge credit to ARC and his boundless enthusiasm and energy is totally infectious. I am sure he will continue to go on and help us achieve greater things in the next 12 months.

Tom's endless enthusiasm for tennis motivates people to get involved. Everything he does targets the mission of getting more people playing tennis. The schools outreach programme described above is the best example of this with 300 pupils per week playing tennis. He has grown the club's own tots, mini and junior tennis programme from 52 children receiving coaching bi-weekly to over 190 children receiving coaching at least once per week.

He has also been instrumental in growing the club's membership from around 150 to over 350 members. This has all been achieved on the club's outdoor courts so we cannot wait to see what he will achieve when we open our indoor facilities!

Coach of the Year

Nominee – Ricky Palmer – St Budeaux

Ricky's work, commitment and enthusiasm has made an immense difference to all aspects of the club. He is not just coach but committee member, competition organiser, fundraiser, social media star, mentor and a fantastic role model. Ricky has a wonderful, warm personality and is liked and appreciated by everyone at the club whatever their age or standard of play. He spends many hours at the club and is the welcoming face that greets prospective or new members. Nothing is too much trouble for Ricky.

The club is not in an affluent area and Ricky runs an affordable,(low cost), junior coaching programme which has attracted over 50 juniors who attend weekly coaching, many of whom are now club members culminating in the club having 3 teams in the Junior P&D League – the first time in the history of the club! Ricky is always there to watch his juniors competing and completes his own design of match report cards to help pupils improve their game. He organises competitions, runs holiday camps but is equally busy coaching and running activities for adults which has attracted more to the club. The increased membership, due in no small part to Ricky's influence has led to the club having 5 men's and 3 ladies teams in the League.

He has set up Clubspark, Facebook and Twitter to keep in touch with players and promote activities and keep them informed and involved. He has spent many an hour organising fund raising events to support the activities he runs, pay for prizes, medals and awards for players and also help fund any junior wishing to take their Level 1 Assistant Coach qualification. 2 have achieved this in 2016 with another in the process. In 2016 alone £1500 has been spent on the juniors.

Ricky has 4 helpers who assist him on a regular basis and for every hour they give, he gives an hour's individual coaching. He provides a safe place and a listening ear to anyone in need and is a great motivator. He is invaluable to the club.

Senior Player of the Year nominations

1. Emma Hurst

20 year old Emma, formerly coached by Derek Blackmore and a member of Seaton Tennis Club is now on a sports scholarship at Bath University where her tennis has gone from strength to strength.

In 2016 Emma improved her world ranking by 395 places moving from 1265 at the end of 2015 to 870 in singles and 897 in doubles.

She won the BUCS Individual Tennis Championships 2015-16 as #1 seed and was runner up in the doubles. In June 2016 Emma qualified for the Wimbledon British Wildcard play-offs at the All England Lawn Tennis Club. She enjoyed a very good summer County Cup with 14 wins from 15 partnered with Kendal Brown.

She was selected for the Great Britain BUCs team to play in the BNP Paribas Tennis Event in Lille, France in December 2016 in which the team won the bronze medal.

In October, Emma also won her first **ITF** doubles title in the \$10k Roehampton Tournament. A tremendous achievement.

Emma has played for the County at every age group and despite being away at University is still committed to playing for Devon where possible. Her loyalty to the County is much appreciated and she is applauded for her success which is very much down to her hard work and focus, not to mention the support from her family, coach and club.

2. Sue Doncaster - ARC

Sue has represented the County since 2011, firstly in the over 65s then latterly in the over 70s. She was an integral member of her team which was promoted to Division 1 and has successfully maintained that position for 2017.

Sue always demonstrates excellence and dedication and encouraged other senior members to take part in the Seniors Inter Club event in 2016, leading the way by playing in two teams herself, over 60s and 65s. Supporting the local tournaments she won doubles titles in the summer and played in the North Devon League Division 1 throughout the season, captaining the Ladies B team.

Sue has enriched people's lives throughout her long tennis career and at the age of 73 is an example to us all.

Young Volunteer of the Year nominations

1. Charlotte Koval - ARC

Lottie is the daughter of a Club member, and she has grown up always involved at the club initially as a spectator in a pram, then as pupil in the coaching scheme, a member of the Junior Club, latterly as a coach, and always a pleasure to have as part of the Club community.

Lottie joined the coaching team as a volunteer as soon as she was old enough, and has now progressed to a level 2 coach. In addition to her on court coaching, she provides invaluable help to the Head Coach in the form of assistance with administration and promotion. She has recently taken on the role of First Aider. She is a full and active member of the Club committee and her contributions are always thoughtful and often provide a refreshing perspective. She can always be relied on to step up, unasked, when help is required in any form. She provides a great role model for the youngsters. She is especially popular with the mini groups but is equally at home with the adults, and has the ability to put everyone at ease - junior or senior, member or visitor. She put in many hours of assistance to the organisers before and during our annual Tournament in May, and for the recent visit to the Club of the Davis Cup Trophy, she played a major role in the planning and organising of the day. She is currently carrying an injury and is thus not playing in her usual place in the A team, but this has not hindered her involvement and enthusiasm.

Lottie acts as a great advocate for the Club and with her enthusiastic approach she makes a very positive contribution to the promotion of the fun and social aspect of tennis, not solely concentrating on performance.

2. Beth Groves – St Budeaux

Beth gives up her free time to help coach the mini reds every Thursday and Saturday. Beth helps during school holidays with the kids club. Last year she help organise and run the mini red club competition with over 20 children taking part. Yet Beth is just 13 years old.

Last year was a very difficult year for Beth. Helping with the coaching and other activities has improved her confidence and enabled her to cope better. She is so kind and caring to other children and to turn a negative into a positive takes courage. She is such a great help and even with a fractured arm Beth has continued to help, recently assisting with a friendly orange ball match by scoring for the players. She also has coaching herself every week and plays for the junior C team. Despite everything, Beth always has a big smile on her face. She is a great role model for other juniors.

3. Roxanne Marshall – Hill Lane

Roxy has been very active in a wide array of roles within the club in 2016 which has led her to be nominated not only for this honour but for the BBC Unsung Hero Awards, held alongside the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Awards. She is also the inaugural winner of the clubs "Angela Mortimer" award, presented to the most inspirational member in the club.

In the past year Roxy has volunteered in capacity of Tennis Leader, Assistant Coach, played a key role in the Competition Team, led the club's marketing (newsletter, website, social media, leaflets etc), attended committee meetings and been an inspiration to others to also join in and assist the club. She has developed as a coach to gain her level 2 qualifications and is an integral part of our coaching team that deliver comprehensive coaching programmes to our juniors every weekend. She is now regularly the lead coach in many of these and also fills in for our regular paid coaches, coaching juniors and adults alike. She now also coaches throughout the city on various initiatives.

She has played a lead role and worked to organise various LTA initiatives that the club puts on such as the GBTWs and Quorn Family Challenges, and has been instrumental in the introduction of ranking points and the awarding of certificates to our monthly Junior and Mini Competitions in which she always officiates and virtually administers a Junior League on her own.

Through her coaching, communication and administration she has greatly assisted in the enablement of many more people playing tennis more often, and encouraging others to get further involved in the sport, both at our club and beyond.

Her passion for the sport is evident every day through the enthusiasm in which she approaches everything, she always has a wide smile on her face, and she is immensely encouraging and supportive to new members to our club and the sport, always showing great inclusivity and engagement with people of all ages and backgrounds

She is an inspiration to all and extremely deserving of this nomination.

Volunteer of the Year nominations

1. Sarah Powell - ARC

Sarah over the past year has dedicated an enormous amount of time to our ongoing project at ARC. Sarah has volunteered for so many jobs over the past 12 months, many of which are jobs that no one else has been prepared to volunteer for. She never complains and always gets the job done well. Sarah has taken on the role of managing the finances for our coaching programme which as a volunteer is a huge task which largely goes unseen by the majority of members and players, together with managing the bar (and becoming our licensing official), managing the promotion & sale of ARC's new hoodies, taking over as our tournament treasurer for our annual Open Adult & Junior Ratings Tournament, helping at all our tennis events (GBTWs, Davis Cup Trophy Tour, and competitions), helping at all our fund raising events, organising our 'buy a brick' fundraising campaign, ... in fact, she is involved in virtually everything that goes on. It seems whenever we need a volunteer Sarah is one of the first to come forward, and if she sees a job that needs doing she just gets on and does it. Her input is invaluable and it would be amazing to see that recognised.

Sarah's input helps to ensure that everything runs smoothly at ARC – this enhances people's experience when they are on site and encourages them to return. She is always super friendly and welcoming. Her input at our GBTWs and other events recording data and helping run the events has led to increased membership and enabled us to promote ARC to the local community.

2. Sally Rana, Lottie Koval, Matt Johns, M. Vinall, D. Vinall – ARC Davis Cup Trophy Tour Committee

All 5 are members at Atlantic Racquet Centre and part of our volunteer management committee. They are all employed in other industries but each commit a huge amount of their free time to the organisation, promotion and delivery of Tennis to both the members and wider community here at Atlantic Racquet Centre.

After the news broke that our centre had been lucky enough to be selected as the Devon venue for the Davis Cup Trophy tour these 5 volunteers formed the event organising committee. Along with Tom Vinall (nominator) they held well over 10 lengthy meetings in the 6 months prior to our event. As well as giving countless hours away from

the meetings to organise and promote what turned out to be the most successful event that the centre had ever seen, and arguably one of the most successful Davis Cup Trophy tour events in the whole country.

The trophy tour event organised solely by these 5 individuals and took place on the 4th of September 2016 at Atlantic Racquet Centre. The event combined live music from local school choirs and bands with our very own Bideford Town Band, an array of catering including external food vans, ice-cream vans, BBQ's a homemade cake and sandwich bar and more. There was a huge selection of stalls run by other local sports clubs and community groups as well as visiting local celebrities.

3. David Vinall

The wearer of many hats in his tennis career, David epitomises the qualities of a volunteer. He was and still is an active member of Westward Ho! Tennis Club (now the Atlantic Racquets Centre), the referee of their annual tournament for many years, past chairman of the club and the North Devon LTA and involved in and dedicated to tennis in his local community in every way.

As North Devon LTA's representative on the Devon LTA Council he was an active and committed councillor, becoming Vice Chairman in 2009 and Chairman in 2010. During his term of office as County Chairman, David was responsible for re-energising and re-focusing the County Association and steering it through the difficult period of change caused by the LTA restructure. Having stepped down as Chairman in 2016 he became the representative for Devon on the LTA Council. David is still committed to the development, promotion and growth of tennis in the County. He enthuses others with his passion for the sport and despite an extremely busy work life still finds time to devote to the County and his club.

In his role as County Chairman and current role as LTA Councillor and active member of his club, David has always supported every opportunity to promote tennis and encourage and facilitate others to play. His club is always at the forefront of any County activity due in no small part to David's enthusiasm, willingness to get involved and the can do attitude he has made endemic in the club.

4. Andy Malcom

Andy unselfishly volunteers many hours of his week to the dedicated running of both his local club (in the community) and tennis in and around Devon. This is in spite of the fact that his current health issues have not allowed him to play tennis himself, for over 5 years.

Andy joined Willand tennis club in 2003. He played in the teams, captained teams and then got involved in the committee. In 2008 he took over as club chairman while continuing his team captaincy. He is also Club Championship organiser and is the club's main contact with the LTA and the local tennis league.

Andy was invited onto the Exeter & District league committee in 2008 and in 2009 becoming League Chairman. This involves chairing the summer and winter AGM's, committee meetings and acting as the main point of contact when appeals to decisions need to be adjudicated. Andy was then voted to be one of the leagues 2 representatives to the Council of Devon County Lawn Tennis Association. In this role he sat on the council for a couple of years before taking over the post of County treasurer in 2010. As County treasurer Andy also sits on the LTA's National treasurers working group. If this wasn't enough, he also organises a small, informal, cross county winter league which includes local Mid-Devon teams and some West Somerset teams.

I think I speak for the whole of the Willand Tennis Committee when nominating Andy for Devon Volunteer of the year. Only this weekend, in our local community Andy organised and presented at an annual presentation evening; inspiring the next generation of Juniors with dozens of awards/prizes for tournament wins (and participation), many of which Andy himself had organised and run. However, we believe it's not just his volunteered time and effort which makes Andy such a strong candidate for volunteer of the year, but the impact he has on Devon Tennis as a whole. Andy epitomises the key values of integrity, honesty and impartiality. These core values are the things that keep our committee (and I'm sure the tennis leagues & treasury duties) functioning day to day.

5. Robert Richards

Robert has volunteered at Okehampton Tennis Club for over 12 years giving his time for free on Saturdays to help teach youngsters the basics of tennis. He is a committed and inspirational volunteer at our club. He gives up so much of his time to help develop our junior section and he is a much treasured part of our tennis community. He

has enabled the Club to keep the cost of attending the Saturday sessions incredibly low meaning that the tennis really is open to children of all socio-economic backgrounds.

He has dedicated time from his very busy family and work schedule to introduce tennis to as many children as possible. He has an infectious love of the game that the children easily identify with. He initially took on the role so as to encourage his own 5 children to come and learn to play but even though they all developed other interests he has continued to come every Saturday to share his passion and encourage hundreds of local children to get involved in tennis. He is not only helping foster a desire within young children to play tennis but it has even rubbed off on the parents who are now starting to pick up rackets again.

He has been a tremendous servant of the club and has worked hard to win awards /sponsorship to get funding for the club to get new court surfaces laid. Without his dedication turning up every week for free the club may not have survived. Innumerable numbers of children have gone through the ranks and developed a life-long love of the sport because of Rob.

Highland Spring Club of the Year nomination

Hill Lane Tennis Club

Hill Lane has seen an 800% growth in numbers in under a decade, rising from 25 circa 2008 to 200 members today.

As well as serving the local community the club attracts members from all across the city and beyond because of offering the most comprehensive coaching programme in the area and an inclusive, welcoming ethos. This year the Club has increased its pay and play income, whilst developing the relationship with numerous community groups so that the courts are used by primary schools, secondary schools, language schools, Plymouth University and church groups. The Club also hosts the Plymouth Open, the major junior competition in Plymouth, and are engaged in talks with numerous interested parties to host a reintroduced Plymouth Schools Tennis Championships for next April/May.

The excellent and inclusive service to members and participants is demonstrated through high membership satisfaction levels and high membership retention (in excess of 80%) which has seen membership grow so significantly in the past decade.

The Club has demonstrated a willingness to think innovatively and progressively in order to grow and develop all aspects which has seen stories featured in local newspapers, radio and television, as well as featuring on the BBC Sport Website. Their website has moved onto the Clubspark model which has improved accessibility and functionality so the Club can engage more with their core stakeholders. The monthly newsletter has been action packed and has reached 12 A4 pages some months and this is distributed to all members.

Hill Lane has taken part in a wide variety of LTA initiatives and is currently working with the All England Lawn Tennis Club, Plymouth City Council and others to celebrate and showcase the Club's heritage to inspire future generations in a campaign entitled "Celebrating 90 years of Tennis. Inspiring 90 years more!" As part of this the Club recently invited back members from the 4 founding schools, a 1953 Plymouth Open Champion, the 1970 Junior Wimbledon Champion, and Plymouth's 2 MP's who all got involved in a festival of tennis and specifically a Davis Cup style MP Challenge whilst all participating in the club's annual presentation of awards.

The Club has a long term plan and vision to restore past glories when it held a Davis Cup match, helped develop regular talent including the last GB Woman ranked No1 in Singles, Angela Mortimer, and had membership as high as 300. It has realised new avenues of finance that so far should increase turnover by at least £3k pa and continue to pursue one of grants and further assistance as well as sponsorship packages tied to the rebranding of the courts to celebrate the heritage of the club. Great strides have been made with a sustained membership increase that now generates £10k pa for sinking fund/investment and which is projected to increase.

Hill lane has made a phoenix like recovery and believes it has the drive, vision, ethos, committee, coaches and facilities to utilise the upsurge in interest within the sport to engage more of the community further in our great sport.

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nominee – Jon Triggs

“I have worked alongside Jon in tennis for the last 30 years. I first coached Jon in 1987 and he was different from many of our youngsters as he was not from a tennis background. He was very determined and became a coach’s assistant once he was old enough and so coached with me, eventually taking over the whole business known as Torridge School of Tennis.”

From the minute Jon became Head Coach of Westward Ho! Tennis Club he was determined that tennis would be for every-one of all ages and all backgrounds. He increased participation in the local area dramatically, so much so that there were waiting lists to join the coaching programme. Working in a deprived area, the cost of lessons was paramount but Jon always ensured that it was inclusive for all, going the extra mile to research schemes where children on free school meals could access his programmes free and then he could fund them following their initial courses. His dedication to tennis became clear as he was the only Level 4 coach in Devon to run this venture alongside his main job as Chief Accountant for North Devon District Council. He enriched children’s lives through tennis and inspired them to become tennis assistants, tournament organisers and coaches themselves. He waited until one of his former pupils was ready to become Head Coach before relinquishing the reigns after 25 years in the driving seat.

Jon was never content with just coaching children and adults, he actively found ways of encouraging them to become members of the club in whatever way they could. He worked for nearly 10 years to assist the club in moving to their new £2.7 million site with 6 outdoor courts and 4 indoor courts so that even larger numbers of the community would be able to access tennis.

He is an inspirational role model for others involved in tennis and his legacy will live on, not only in North Devon but across the UK and even world-wide.

The John Barter Trophy

John, a former Devon LTA Councillor and Men's Team Captain, contributed hugely to the County in the 1980s and 90s. Having been a Council member for some years, he was asked to take over the Men's Team in 1988. At that time Devon wallowed in the lowly regions of Division 7. John, who was working in Exeter, negotiated time off to travel each day to Minehead to manage the team. Having failed to win a match, John knew there was work to be done and put his energies into building a team. The following year, still in Division 7, Devon won and gained promotion. From that year on Devon won each year moving from division 7 to division 1 in consecutive years until in 1995 they became overall champions by winning division 1.

John, always known by the players as JB, felt he should step down but the team persuaded him otherwise and they capped their achievement by winning again in 1996.

Much is owed to John by Devon LTA and by the players he brought on to full potential during his time as captain.

We are honoured to present this trophy, donated by his widow Connie in his memory, to a male player for outstanding performance in the Inter County Cups.