

TENNIS SCHOOL TRIPS

A resource developed to provide schools with
ideas and options for tennis related school trips

Introduction:

There are a wide range of tennis related school trips available across the country, throughout the year, for different age groups.

This resource has been developed to provide ideas and more detail on the options available.

Why not schedule in a school trip as a culmination of a programme of tennis activity delivered at your school?

Why not investigate scheduling in a school trip to contribute to an element of a PE related qualification being delivered at your school?

Why not think about a trip to your local tennis club or centre – a regular weekly session, or an end of term tournament?

Why not consider a tennis related school trip during National School Sport Week? (England)

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1. MAJOR EVENTS

The Championships, Wimbledon:

The Championships, Wimbledon is the world's most prestigious tennis tournament and is the only Grand Slam to be played on grass.

Wimbledon is situated in South West London and the event takes place during the last week of June and the first week of July.

Schools Tennis Member Schools are able to enter an annual ballot to access half price group tickets and approximately 700 schools benefit from this ballot each year.

- More information about Schools Tennis Membership can be found at: www.schoolstennis.org
- More information about The Championships, Wimbledon, can be found at: www.wimbledon.org

Davis Cup:

The Davis Cup is the biggest and most prestigious team competition in men's tennis and sees around 130 nations battle it out for top honours.

The Davis Cup is an annual competition, with the participating nations playing in tiered groups. Only the top 16 nations compete in the elite division, known as the World Group, which is played in a knock-out format over several weekends throughout the year.

At the levels below the World Group, nations compete in regional or 'zonal' competitions: the Americas Zone, the Asia/Oceania Zone and the Europe/Africa Zone. In each zone, there are four groups, Group I being the highest and Group IV the lowest. When not playing in the World Group, Britain plays in the Europe/Africa Zone.

The AEGON GB Davis Cup team typically plays in two Davis Cup ties each year and when drawn at home, the Davis Cup has been staged at a number of major venues across Great Britain.

Ties take place across 3 days – Friday, Saturday and Sunday - group ticket options are available and schools are encouraged to attend.

- More information about the Davis Cup can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/Davis-Cup

ATP World Tour Finals:

For the first time in history, in 2009 the climax of the men's professional tennis season came to The O2 arena in a deal that will see the O2 host the event until 2013.

The qualification equation is exceedingly simple but brutally tough. Finish the season in the Top 8 and you're in. And the rewards are high: \$5 million in total prize money, the chance to win one of the most prestigious titles in tennis and to finish as the season's No. 1 player.

Featuring a unique round-robin format, the Barclays ATP World Tour Finals will see all players playing a minimum of three matches each as they battle for a place in the knockout semi-finals and beyond. With the quality of each match akin to that of a Grand Slam quarterfinal or better, this is one sporting spectacle you can't afford to miss.

The event takes place at The O2 Arena in London, for a week at the end of November and group ticket options are available.

- More information about The ATP World Tour Finals can be found at: www.barclaysatpworldtourfinals.com

British Wheelchair Open Championships (Nottingham);

The British Open Wheelchair Tennis Championships, part of the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, takes place each year in Nottingham and provides a week of top class international wheelchair tennis.

One of the World's leading wheelchair tennis tournaments and one of just five Super Series events on the NEC Wheelchair Tennis Tour, the 20th British Open in 2009 had arguably the highest quality entry in the history of the event, which has been held in Nottingham for the past 17 years.

All the top 10 ranked players in each of the men's, women's and quad singles events played in the event. The 2008 British Open Champions were there to defend their titles including Beijing Paralympic gold medallists Shingo Kunieda of Japan, Esther Vergeer of the Netherlands and Britain's Peter Norfolk OBE.

- Spectators can watch for free and more information about The British Wheelchair Open Championships, along with a number of other National Disability Tennis events can be found at: www.tennisfoundation.org.uk/disabilitytennis

2. AEGON BRITISH TENNIS SERIES

AEGON Championships (London):

Formerly known as the Artois Championships, the AEGON Championships is staged at The Queen's Club in London.

The prestigious men's event attracts some of the world's best players at the start of their grass court season. In 2009, Andy Murray became the first British player since Bunny Austin in 1938 to win the singles title.

- More information about the AEGON Championships can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/AEGON-British-Tennis-Series/AEGON-Championships

AEGON Classic (Birmingham):

The AEGON Classic is staged within the intimate grounds of Edgbaston Priory Club, a stone's throw from Birmingham City Centre.

The superb grass courts and fierce competition make it excellent preparation for many of the top female players going on to compete at The Championships, Wimbledon.

Group ticket options are available and local schools can take part in a substantial programme of community activity in the 'Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone', as part of their visit.

- More information about the AEGON Classic can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/AEGON-British-Tennis-Series/AEGON-Classic
- Local schools interested in attending and taking part, by playing Mini Tennis in the Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone, should contact Warwickshire LTA via: Warwickshire@LTA.org.uk

AEGON International (Eastbourne):

Devonshire Park in Eastbourne provides the idyllic setting for the AEGON International, one of only nine combined ATP and WTA events on the calendar.

The AEGON International gives spectators the opportunity to watch tennis from some of the world's top male and female players as they make their final preparations for Wimbledon. In 2009, Caroline Wozniacki was crowned women's champion while Dmitry Tursunov won the first ever men's title in Eastbourne.

Group ticket options are available and local schools can take part in a substantial programme of community activity in the 'Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone', as part of their visit.

- More information about the AEGON International can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/AEGON-British-Tennis-Series/AEGON-International
- Local schools interested in attending and taking part, by playing Mini Tennis in the Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone, should contact Sussex LTA via: Sussex@LTA.org.uk

AEGON Trophy (Nottingham):

The AEGON Trophy, part of the AEGON Pro-Series, took place on Nottingham Tennis Centre's world class grass courts for the first time in 2009.

Formerly held in Surbiton, the \$50k event welcomed many of Britain's established stars and promising youngsters alongside a strong international field of players.

Group ticket options are available and local schools can take part in a community activity area including a 'Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone', as part of their visit.

- More information about the AEGON Trophy can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/AEGON-British-Tennis-Series/AEGON-Trophy
- Local schools interested in attending and taking part, by playing Mini Tennis in the Highland Spring Hot Shots Zone, should contact Nottinghamshire LTA via: Nottinghamshire@LTA.org.uk

3. AEGON PRO-SERIES

In addition to Davis Cup ties and the major grass court tournaments during the summer, there are international, national and regional tennis events taking place across Britain every week throughout the year.

The majority of these events are free and provide spectators with a fantastic opportunity to watch exciting live tennis at no cost.

The AEGON Pro-Series represents both men's and women's events taking place, with prize money ranging from \$10k to \$75k. This level of competition features many of the world's up and coming players who often progress to compete on the main ATP and WTA Tours. It is also a breeding ground for Britain's best young players, including Team AEGON and AEGON FutureStars, to learn their trade against strong and often experienced international opposition.

In 2009, AEGON Pro-Series events took place at the following venues:

- Glasgow
 - Wrexham
 - Sheffield
 - Sutton
 - Tipton
 - Bath
 - Jersey
 - Bournemouth
 - Edinburgh
 - Newcastle
 - Nottingham
 - Felixtowe
 - Frinton
 - Manchester
 - Ilkley
 - Foxhills
 - Cumberland
 - Shrewsbury
 - Barnstaple
 - Cardiff
 - Sunderland
- More information about the AEGON Pro-Series tournament in 2010, visit: www.lta.org.uk/Articles/Featured-competitions/AEGON-Pro-Series

4. WIMBLEDON LAWN TENNIS MUSEUM

This state of the art Museum explores the evolution of tennis from a garden party pastime to today's world-wide professional sport.

Highlights of the Museum include:

- The Championship trophies.
- An extensive collection of tennis memorabilia dating back to 1555.
- A 'ghost' of John McEnroe commenting on the game and his legendary opponents in the very dressing room he once used.
- 200° Cinema with CGI special effects capturing The Science of Tennis.
- Film and video footage taking visitors into the heart of the action of some of the most memorable and exciting tournament matches.
- Interactive exhibits and easy-to-use touchscreens.
- Audioguides in eight languages.
- Audioguide for visually impaired visitors and BSL tour for deaf visitors.

The Museum Education Department offers imaginative and informative programmes for Primary, Secondary and Further Education students.

Linking the Museum's diverse collection to the National Curriculum, the Education Department invites students to explore the world of tennis within a safe and inspirational environment.

Specially trained guides bring The Championships to life with tours of the historic grounds ranging from a heart pounding 'Keeping Healthy Tour' for KS1/2 (ages 5-11) to a behind-the-scenes Customer Service Tour for GCSE – A Level students.

The Museum is open all year round, but closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Please note that the Museum is open only to ticket holders during The Championships fortnight.

For further information, please visit: www.wimbledon.org/museum or contact: museum.education@aeltc.com / 020 8879 5619.

5. LOCAL CLUB VISITS

As part of your school-club link, why not consider a trip to your local tennis club, indoor centre or park?

Depending on location and availability, you could make a weekly trip to the venue for a PE lesson, or make a special trip at the end of term to run a tournament or festival.

Primary Schools could also make use of the 'Tennis Activity Week Pack' resource, available to download from: www.schoolstennis.org

- Details of clubs and tennis providers in your local area can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/In-Your-Area
- Details of local park sites providing organised tennis opportunities can be found at: www.eparktennis.com

6. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

There are major international tennis events taking place across the world all year round and many external travel providers operate school trip packages to sporting events.

Alternatively, subscribe to the British Tennis Membership 'International Events Package' and access discounts to watch tennis around the world.

Grand Slam Tennis Tours can offer you tailor-made packages to the Grand Slams, Davis Cup and ATP World Tour Masters 1000 events and Sony Ericsson WTA Premier tournaments with up to 15% off.

These packages include accommodation in top hotels plus one night's free accommodation on each trip, access to dine with top tennis stars, tours of the world's greatest tennis facilities, tennis tours and camps throughout the year. Court side tickets are also available getting you close to the action!

- More information about British Tennis Membership can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/membership
 - More information about the four 'Grand Slams' can be found at: www.lta.org.uk/Watch/Grand-Slams
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