



**Kent Tennis Inclusive Festival:
“A Powerful Reminder That Tennis Is For Everyone...”**

On Saturday, August 23, 2025, the inaugural Inclusive Kent Tennis Festival took place at the Bromley Tennis Centre. The event, which celebrated tennis for all ages and abilities, had a fantastic turnout, bringing together players, families, and volunteers for a day of fun, learning, and inspiration.

Lead coach Jonathon Dawes welcomed everyone and set a positive tone for the day's activities. After a high-energy warm-up, participants jumped into a six-station "Team Challenge". This carousel of activities, which included a well-deserved lunch break, allowed players to test their skills in a fun and supportive environment.

A major highlight of the afternoon was a special exhibition from GB athletes Matthew Knonesen, Lucas De Gouveia, and Adam Brownsword. Their skill and dedication on the court were an inspiration, and an interactive Q&A session gave participants a chance to talk with the players directly.

Following the exhibition, the courts were split for tailored coaching sessions. Vanessa Oakes led a session for the advanced needs and sponge ball players, while Jonathon, Andrea, and the brilliant Tennis Leaders worked with orange, green, and yellow ball players, ensuring everyone received appropriate guidance.

Keith Gill our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Lead, commented on the event's success:

“Today was a powerful reminder that tennis is for everyone... to see so many players engaged, building confidence, and having fun is what it's all about.” The festival saw 25 entries and an astonishing 11 different disabilities highlighting this inclusion for everyone.

He also adds that “This festival is a cornerstone of our commitment to making tennis accessible and welcoming across the county, and the incredible atmosphere today proves we are on the right track”.

We thank Bromley Tennis Centre and all of our volunteers for their commitment to making this event possible.

We hope the enjoyment, skills, and new friendships made will continue with all the players on their journeys, both on and off the court.