## Volunteer Reward and Recognition

Whilst people do not necessarily volunteer in order to be thanked, very few volunteers will stay actively involved unless they receive some form of acknowledgement for their contribution. Recognition can be given informally and formally:

**Formal recognition includes:**

* British Tennis Awards (see below)
* National Volunteers Week (see below)
* Public recognition at events (see below)
* Recognition of Special Achievements (see below)
* External Awards (see below)

**Informal recognition includes:**

* Saying thank you verbally, by email , phone or letter
* Recognising birthdays, volunteering anniversaries, babies, graduations and other
* Recognising achievements on social media, newsletters, noticeboards etc. You can message @BritishTennis on social media who will retweet for greater recognition

### British Tennis Awards



You can nominate volunteers for a British Tennis Award. The awards celebrate the achievements made by outstanding individuals and venues in British Tennis and present a great opportunity to say thank you. Every nominee is acknowledged and thanked. County Volunteer Winners receive a small voucher prize, a certificate and an invite to the National Tennis Centre.

Regional winners are treated to a day out at a Major Event (2 tickets) and a glass trophy presented on-court. National winners receive a special day at Wimbledon with 2 Centre Court tickets, full hospitality and a trophy. The national club and community venues receive a £5,000 facilities grant.

Being recognised through the British Tennis Awards means a lot to the people who are nominated and who win at every single stage of the process. Nominations are open from Sept to Nov.

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### National Volunteers’ Week



National Volunteers’ Week provides an opportunity to celebrate the contribution of volunteers. Whilst recognition shouldn’t happen just once a year it is a useful, platform to get behind.The LTA recognise this every year and will usually run a range of initiatives, such as:

* Telephone a volunteer – asking LTA employees and former players to phone volunteers to say thank you (you can submit a request to the LTA to do this)
* Emails, newsletters and social media
* Events – such as a “Volunteers Day” at the National Tennis Centre
* Supplying promotional material to venues to thank their volunteers

Full details of the week can be found here: <https://volunteersweek.org>.

### Public recognition at Events

A public thank you to volunteers at events (such as your AGM) is a good way to recognise them. Recognition of support provided to organise events or prepare reports are recommended.

### Recognising Young Volunteers

A great way to recognise the efforts of younger volunteers is through the vInspired awards. vInspired is a charity which pairs organisations, including sports clubs, with young volunteers (14-25 year olds). Young volunteers can work towards their V10, v30, v30 and v100 awards, showing how many hours they've spent volunteering, which look great on CVs and in job interviews.

### Recognition of Special Achievements

A registered venue can email the Volunteering Team ([volunteer@lta.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@lta.org.uk)) if:

* A volunteer has reached a particular landmark (number of hours, number of years)
* A volunteer has achieved something extra special
* They have an “unsung hero” who needs to be thanked

You can ask the Volunteering Team to send a certificate and/or one small gift as a thank you. Decisions are discretionary and each case discussed individually.

**Examples of what the Volunteering Team may be able to organise for you:**

* A thank you letter with a framed certificate signed by the CEO and LTA President marking hours, years or special achievements
* A volunteer pin-badge
* A small tennis gift such as: t-shirt, shorts, wrist sweat-band, keyring
* A visit and tour to the National Tennis Centre
* Other (suggestions welcomed)

We cannot guarantee that we can honour each and every request, and requests are normally limited to one per venue per year, but we will try to accommodate wherever possible. Recognition is for voluntary activities, but there is no definition of what roles or achievements should be recognised, or for how long – it is for the venue to suggest this.

### Unsung Heroes Awards – Sports Personality of the Year

### Image result for unsung hero awards bbc

The BBC Get Inspired Unsung Hero Award celebrates the outstanding contribution from those who tirelessly help in the development and running of grassroots sports. The award recognises 15 regional winners and 1 national winner. Nominations are in October with regional winners announced in November, and the national winner announced in December

Anyone from the public can nominate and the LTA may be able to support the nomination. Nominations can be made via the BBC’s website: [www.bbc.co.uk/unsunghero](http://www.bbc.co.uk/unsunghero)

### Points of Light

 The Points of Light award recognises outstanding volunteers who are making a change in their community every week day. Winners receive a certificate from the Prime Minister.

Anyone can nominate, any day of the year, and there is no specific criteria. See the website for examples of past winners and how to nominate: <https://www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/get-involved/>

### The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service



The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to volunteer groups across the UK. Any group of 2 or more people doing volunteering work can be nominated for the award. Nomination can be submitted by September and winners are announced in June.

Anyone aware of the group, including people who benefit from the group's activities, may make a nomination. Their guidance says “*please don't nominate your own group if you're a volunteer or paid staff member as we need to ensure that nominations are independent and supported. Nominations from staff members/ volunteers will be deemed ineligible*.”

Nominations can be made online: <https://qavs.direct.gov.uk/>

### The Queen’s Birthday and New Year Honours

The honours system recognises people who have made achievements in public life, and committed themselves to serving and helping Britain. They’ll usually have made life better for other people or be outstanding at what they do. Nominations can be submitted by anyone at anytime and the LTA may be able to provide a letter of support.

### Torch Trophy Trust



The annual awards recognise the unsung heroes of sport and by commemorating community achievement. Award winners are people dedicated to their sport who have been nominated to recognize their outstanding commitment to their local communities. Nominations can be made from November to December and the awards presentation is in February to March.

Anyone can make a nomination but the criteria states “*you must have the support of your relevant National Governing Body”.* Nominations can be made online: <http://torchtrophytrust.org/nominations>

### County Sports and Other Awards

Awards recognising sporting or volunteering achievements within the County are another way to recognise volunteers. Check your local arrangements online or with your County Sports Partnership. Most will ask you to submit nominations online.