

Bright Ideas for Tennis Set to Host Record Breaking 24 Hour Tennis Marathon Featuring GB Blind Player Tracy Compton and former GB Pro's Jonny O'Mara and Katie O'Brien to Raise Funds for Disability Tennis

Jonny O'Mara, Katie O'Brien and Tracy Compton are attempting to play tennis continuously for 24 hours to raise funds for "I Play 30" disability tennis programmes. "I Play 30", an initiative set up by Bright Ideas for Tennis, are tennis programmes specifically designed for people with learning, physical and sensory disabilities. The activities teach participants essential life skills and supports both their physical and mental well-being.

Never before has a blind tennis player played for 24 hours so Tracy is going for a world first!

The trio will take on the challenge alongside former Wimbledon semi-finalist **Tim Henman** and host of Channel 4's "The Last Leg", comedian **Adam Hills**. The event will feature **more than 20 GB Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup players**, Special Olympian **Lily Mills**, Paralympic Silver and Bronze Medalist **Oliver Lam-Watson**, deaf tennis star **Esah Hayat** and wheelchair players **Thomas Dodds** and **Daniel Wilson**. Adults and children with Down's Syndrome and learning difficulties from the charity's "I Play 30" programme will also be involved. The fundraiser promises to be an incredible showcase of how inclusive tennis can be.

This unique event offers 12 fundraising teams the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play at the prestigious National Tennis Centre in Roehampton whilst interacting with the biggest names in British tennis and learning about the value of inclusion. Fundraising teams include **Eton College, St Paul's School** and leading private equity investment firm, **Thoma Bravo**.

More than 100 venues host I Play 30 sessions, welcoming more than 1,000 participants every week and with this year's fundraising effort the charity hopes to expand in to new locations to get more people benefiting. Additionally, the programme up-skills volunteers and tennis coaches with free disability training and offers venues adapted equipment to ensure safe and engaging environments. Tennis is a sport which can be easily adapted and has been proven to help people live longer.

"We are incredibly excited for this year's fundraiser, it is a powerful testament to the transformative power of tennis and our belief that everyone should have the chance to play. It will not only raise crucial funds but also awareness of the importance of inclusive sport for all and it is fantastic to see so many players give back to the sport." **Danny Sapsford, Bright Ideas for Tennis Founder.**

- ENDS -

Notes to Editor

Abbie Probert PR Manager	Danny Sapsford Charity Manager	Clare Appleby Fundraising Manager
abbie@brightideasfortennis.org 07764407036	danny@brightideasfortennis.org 07986880518	clare@brightideasfortennis.org 07980954310

24 Hour Tennis Marathon

Date: Midday Saturday 22nd February - Midday Sunday 23rd February

Location: National Tennis Centre, Roehampton

Event Page: <https://brightideasfortennis.enthuse.com/cf/24hr-tennis-marathon-2025>

Charity Website: www.brightideasfortennis.org / Instagram: @brightideasfortennis / Facebook: Bright Ideas for Tennis

Charity Number: 1172899

Bright Ideas for Tennis

Bright Ideas for Tennis was set up by former GB tennis player Danny Sapsford who played on the ATP Tour from 1987-1999. His best performance came at Wimbledon in '99 where he made the third round before losing to eventual champion, Pete Sampras. Danny founded the charity in 2013 and has raised over £1 million to support the growth of tennis in Great Britain.

"I Play 30" Disability Programme

- Over 100 venues host disability tennis programmes with more than 1,000 players taking part each week
- Free for participants and disability groups
- Coaches undergo specific disability and first aid training, hold relevant insurances and are DBS checked
- Specialised equipment is provided to create a safe and engaging environment

Jonny O'Mara

Jonny is a former ATP Tour doubles specialist who reached a career high doubles ranking of No.44 in 2019. He made his Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon in 2017 and claimed his maiden ATP Tour title a year later in Eastbourne. After retiring he joined Andy Murray's coaching team and is now the National Player Programme Coach for Tennis Scotland.

Tracy Compton has lived with sight loss all her life and has been completely blind since 2010. Tracy has played Blind Tennis since 2017. She has been ranked as high as 6th in the world and has been selected to represent Great Britain several times. Tracy speaks on how tennis has changed her life: *"VI tennis has been great for growing my confidence on and off court, encouraging me to participate in regional and national tournaments across the country, boosting my courage and confidence to restart travelling on public transport after the isolation of the pandemic has been significant."*

Katie O'Brien is a former British No.1 representing Team GB in the Billie Jean King Cup between 2005-2010, and reached a career high singles ranking of No.84 on the WTA rankings list. Katie was a regular at Wimbledon from 2001-2011 and is currently a National Coach and Age Group Captain for the LTA.