



The NEC Masters is the culmination of the 2017 wheelchair tennis season and is the most prestigious event on the ITF's UNIQLO Wheelchair Tennis Tour. The event is organised and hosted by the Tennis Foundation, Great Britain's leading tennis charity, as a platform to get more people playing tennis and promote it as a sport that is inclusive and accessible to all.

The NEC Wheelchair Tennis Masters will be based at Loughborough University from 29<sup>th</sup> November -3<sup>rd</sup> December and will be the top 8 men, women and quad players in the world competing, including those who won medals in the Rio Paralympics and many hold grand slam titles.

In previous years the event was hosted in Lee Valley Tennis and Hockey Centre, Stratford, London. It has been very successful and has created a lot of opportunities for local groups to engage in the event and follow on activities.

Now moving to Loughborough we are starting all over again and are really looking to get the local community involved and benefiting from it. We have various opportunities for the local community to get involved including day trip packages, ball crew and volunteer opportunities.

## **GENERAL TRIP PACKAGE**

Register your school or college now to enable a whole class to watch the world's top wheelchair tennis players in action at the NEC Masters at Loughborough University from 29 November - 3 December. Your school or college will be able to get active themselves and play tennis in our activity zone, where we have inflatable games and qualified coaches at hand! Then take your group through to the main event and watch Grand Slam champions and Rio Paralympians battle it out at the end of year championships! Tickets to attend the event, including access to the activity zone, cost just £1 for each child, with teachers free.

To register your schools interest complete our form by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NECMasters2017>

**Community groups can also register for tickets by clicking the link below:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CommunityG>

## **BALL CREW**

We are looking for students to take part in the event as ball crew. We understand that this is a large commitment from schools but we truly believe the benefit that the students can get from being part of this event and activities surrounding it are huge.

In London we recruited 8 squads made up of 6-7 students per squad who rotated over the event week. Most of the students before they started the process had never played tennis before and actually some played no sport at all. Following the event they left with a huge enthusiasm for tennis, a passion to do more, developed leadership skills, confidence and independence.

As well as the ball crew offer we can provide your school will follow on offers including coaching, activator leaders training and much more. As well as this students who don't participate as ball crew can come along to the event and watch their peers in their roles, we can give you group tickets to watch the event and take part in our on-site activity zone that has inflatable challenges, mini courts etc.

In terms of the ball crew commitment the breakdown is as follows:

- 3 days of training in the run up to the event, either morning 9-12pm or afternoon 1-4pm sessions available. (**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November**). All training would take place at Loughborough University.
- Event itself. The event runs from the 29<sup>th</sup> November – 3<sup>rd</sup> December (5 days). Teams will work in shifts across the whole event so those involved would have to be available all of those dates.
- 1 teacher/staff member from each school will be responsible for taking their groups to the training as well as the event days.

They will be provided with UNIQLO clothing and lunches on site, we can help with transport costs as well if that would be a problem.

Squads are formed of 7 students; we can take up to 2 squads of students per school.

For more details about the event see [wheelchairtennismasters.com](http://wheelchairtennismasters.com)

For further information please contact Claire McCulloch [Claire.McCulloch@tennisfoundation.org.uk](mailto:Claire.McCulloch@tennisfoundation.org.uk)

*Disability Competitions Coordinator.*