

## Faringdon LTC– Coaching Report September 2020

Having taken over the coaching programme at FTC in September 2019 we have now just had over a year at the helm, albeit a very strange 6 months since the end of March 2020.

After taking over the programme from Matt Williams, we wanted to increase participation in our junior coaching programme. We took on a junior section which had 20 junior players, playing once a week. Currently, there are 60 junior players playing regularly at Faringdon Tennis Club. We are really pleased with this increase, especially with the Covid-19 uncertainty.

We have worked hard to go into local schools and offer free coaching to increase the awareness of FTC and promote the coaching programme. Creating good working relationships with the schools has enabled us to work together to push our holiday courses and from this we look to convert players into the term time coaching programme. Our holiday courses were well attended this year with two camp weeks in the summer holidays taking place with over 40 players on the courses during this time.

We have invested in banners and cortex boards which show what we offer; you may have seen these around the court perimeter. We also had some marketing leaflets designed and printed which were given out in the local community. We will continue to invest in marketing materials to help us grow interest in the clubs coaching sessions.

We have also pushed our social media campaigns through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. A thank you must go to Jessica Smith who creates our social media posts. We also have created a dedicated section for Faringdon LTC on our Game, Set & Clubspark website, which allows players and parents to find relevant information about our squads, coaching and coaches.

We would like to thank the coaches who have worked on the junior club coaching programme. Paul Butcher, Guy Mobey, Max Mobey, Cameron Macdonald, Luke Thomas, Tom Francis & David Tuck. We are lucky to have some great coaches working at the club and this is reflected in our retention rate.

It is great to see Alan Elbourn around the club again. He continues to pop in and keep an eye on the juniors, many of who started their tennis journey under his guidance. His enthusiasm for the children to develop their tennis is clear to see and we are lucky to have him at the club. Alan is always keen to help out at the junior coaching sessions when he can.

Susanna Hunt has continued to run her ladies coaching mornings several times per week. These are well attended and provide benefit to the members at the club.

Our thanks also goes to Donna Beckett, our administrator who works tirelessly behind the scenes and ensures the coaches have all the necessary information and keeps our parents up to date with any relevant information that they need to know.

A recent addition to the FTC junior programme are our 'performance' coaching sessions at the 12 & under and 18 & under age groups. These are invitational squads where the idea is to bring together groups of players who have been identified as representing FTC in junior leagues. These sessions take place on a Friday evening.

For the first time in FTC history, an 18 & under team was entered into the Oxfordshire Junior Winter League in 2019/20. Many of our 18 & under players took part and the team finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in a strong division.

Another initiative we have recently introduced is a tennis tots session. The interest has been great and we have a session on a Saturday afternoon which is at capacity. We hope this new addition to the programme will complement the existing junior programme and give a clear pathway into our red 8 & under programme.

We would like to thank the committee for their continued support towards the coaching programme and for getting behind us and supporting our ideas. If the committee and/or members have any ideas of coaching sessions they would like us to run, please get in touch and we will endeavour to put these on where we can.

Over the next 12 months we hope the landscape will be easier to build the programme. Our focus will continue to be around the junior coaching programme and hopefully get to a point where we have the need for an additional after school coaching day. We hope our adult programme will continue to grow steadily.

We look forward to working with you all.

See you on court!

Kind regards,

Tom Francis & David Tuck