

Junior Tennis Report 2019

Hi all,

Apologies I cannot be there tonight, believe you me it was a difficult decision not to come back just to partake in Alan's famous quiz involving music and culture from way before my time.

This year has certainly seen progression in the Junior coaching programme. Matt has continued to successfully grow his mid-week sessions, with a particularly strong Thursday night session (that has now been moved to a Wednesday with Dave) of 8 U10s. Susanna has been running her girls sessions through the summer too, with some talented juniors that have the potential to play for the women's teams in the future. My Saturday morning sessions also expanded, with more children coming far more regularly, allowing me to build a solid core of players that have transitioned (along with new players) to Tom and Dave's Saturday morning session. The new Saturday morning session therefore has been a success, with 6 players in each session, and more wanting to sign on regularly. Alan has also played a vital part in the programme by introducing new players to the programme and working tirelessly behind the scenes to run events such as the Junior/Senior tournament of the 21st September, which was a great success.

With Tom, Dave and Matt all coming together we ran our first ever holiday camps here at the club over a period of 3 weeks. 32 children enrolled in the camps in total, many of whom were new to the club and tennis and have enrolled in the club's programme since, the exact intention of the camps. I'm sure the club is grateful for Matt, Tom and Dave coming together with such little time before the summer to run these camps and spread the word through local schools.

In the more competitive side of the junior tennis, we certainly have talent coming through the club. The annual Oxfordshire County Closed Championships saw Shantaigh Estavas compete for the 2nd year in a row, finishing runner-up in the consolation, a great effort. Max Mobey and Luc Thomas both competed in the U16s singles and U18s doubles, finishing runners-up in the doubles against boys 2 years senior to them. Charlie is also competing both for the club and individually too. The A team fielded I'm sure its youngest ever team earlier this summer of myself, Bertie, Luc and Max; an average team age of 17. An internal mini-orange competition was also run at the start of the summer, introducing many of the juniors to competing, something I think Dave and Tom wish to take further in the future. Whilst I'm on the track of competitive achievements this year, I will waver slightly to announce the club now has another player who regularly represents the county in his tennis. The men's 1st team diverse 1st pair is made of two players, who represent the Oxfordshire U18s, and Oxfordshire Over 60s. So, congrats to Adrian for being selected to play for the county.

I'm sure many of you weren't aware of how much exactly has happened in the last year in the junior programme. I'm confident that with Tom and Dave wanting to grow it, this report next year will have even more to say about the improvements Juniors are making.