

Susanna Hunt's Coaching Report for 2020

Sessions

I continue to offer four mornings of ladies' doubles, covering all levels of ability in addition to private lessons and a teenage girls' group on Mondays after school, which runs from Mar-Oct.

Ladies Doubles Coaching Groups:

Tue 9.30-11.00	Experienced
Wed 9.30-11.00	Beginners/Intermediate
Thu 9.30-11.00	Experienced
Fri 10.30-12.00	Beginner/Intermediate

The main aim of my coaching sessions is to help people realise their potential, encourage them to enjoy the wonderful game of tennis and then to prepare them for doubles play, whether that be playing socially with friends, attending our social sessions at the club, or feeling confident enough to enter the club tournament.

Match Play

I also prepare people for match tennis, so they can join either the ladies or the mixed teams and experience competitive tennis, representing Faringdon against other Oxfordshire clubs.

Learning the on-court etiquette, scoring, positioning on court and knowing which balls to call out, is as important as learning the technique and forms a vital component of both social tennis and match play. A player is not only a player, but an umpire too.

3 Ladies teams and 3 Mixed teams compete in the Babolat Oxfordshire summer season and 4 Ladies teams in the winter. Across the squads over both seasons approximately 40 ladies compete, and a similar number attend the coaching sessions.

There is a Ladies mid-week friendly league, which caters for those who are busy at weekends or perhaps want something a little less competitive than the leagues. Sian Starr is the captain.

The majority of the Ladies B, C and D teams are made up of ladies from the coaching sessions and I am delighted that so many of the ladies are choosing to join the Club and compete, rather than just attend coaching. It is the key to increasing our membership and one's enjoyment of the game of tennis.

Financially, these ladies contribute over £3,000 per year in membership fees to the club. (£85 per adult for full membership and £20 for coaching only). As the majority want to play for the team, most ladies choose full membership.

Ladies Teams

With no matches all summer season, everyone is looking forward to winter matches. Ladies A and C team remain similar from last year in terms of captains and squads, but Ladies B and D teams have new captains and different squads.

Ladies A team (Div 1) have a small squad and will call up Charlie Farrow as first choice, from the B team.

Ladies B team (Div 3) have a new captain, Lynne Jilbert. She is a non-playing captain, as her daughter, Katy is one of the new B team squad members. The B team, along with Carol Hand and Sam Bannister, now has four girls, all 16 years old, including Charlie Farrow, Katy Jilbert, Amelie Denham and Daisy Gee. These girls have another 3 years ahead of them before going away to university, so we felt it would be a great opportunity to introduce them to competitive doubles. Also, Sarah Gee (Daisy's Mum) and Alexa Denham (Amelie's Mum) are good players who can also step in if required and have been training with their daughters in the B team squad. I would like to thank Carol and Sam for being such wonderful captains in previous seasons and for the support they have shown to Lynne and the younger members of the squad.

Ladies C Team (Div 4), have an established, experienced captain (Chris Noke) and squad.

Ladies D Team (Div 6) have new joint captains in Maddy Robinshaw and Fiona Pickett and lots of new, keen squad members from the Wed/Fri coaching sessions who will be representing Faringdon in matches for the first time this winter. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sian Starr and Jane Lawson-Smith for being captains previously. In particular, thanks to Sian, who captained for several seasons, always with a smile, and has now taken over as the Mid-week captain.

School Links

Alan and I usually run 3 or 4 Mini Red and Mini Orange school competitions mid week during the summer term at the club for the local Junior schools' Partnership, in conjunction with Faringdon Community College and King Alfred's, Wantage, so the club has good links with the local schools. These sadly didn't take place this year due to Covid.

Covid

It has been an unusual 2020 with no tennis played at the club for approximately 8 weeks from 23 March until 18 May, which was ironic as the weather was perfect for tennis.

We were then permitted to play singles or doubles within 1 household, and coaches could conduct 1:1 lessons. There then followed group lessons of no more than 5 players plus the coach, and then, eventually, in mid-July we could have larger groups.

Tennis and golf have been the best sports to pursue during the pandemic, being outdoors, non-contact, and easy to socially distance. With the tougher Government restrictions on team sports, we have been extremely lucky that tennis is one of the few to be exempt and the club has thrived, in spite of no matches.

Thanks

I wish to thank Tom Francis and Dave Tuck for their huge contribution in developing junior tennis coaching over the past year. They are a great addition to the club with their combined coaching experience and expertise, and their approachable personalities and it is a pleasure to hear such positive feedback from members regarding their sessions. I am also grateful to them for supporting me in continuing at the club with my existing ladies coaching sessions.

I also wish to thank the committee for their voluntary dedication to the club and their support of all the coaches, to Adrian Noke for being match secretary, to Steve Wright for organising the Club Champs and to all the captains.

Here's to 2021.