

# Faringdon Tennis Club

## Junior Coaching Report 2009

### Alan Elbourn

This year has flown by so fast that it seems only moments ago I was writing last year's report. The junior section of the club have produced a batch of extremely talented players who have covered themselves with glory at the County Junior Week at the end of August. The role list as follows is impressive and unprecedented.

Matthew Hunt      Mini Red Under 8 Champion (Oxfordshire)

Guy Mobey          Mini Orange Under 9 Finalist (Oxfordshire)

George James      Mini Orange Under 9 Champion (Wiltshire)

Benjamin Procter   Mini Green Under 10 Consolation Winner (Wiltshire)

All of the above players started their tennis careers at Faringdon Tennis Club and will hopefully progress and continue to be a credit to themselves and their families for many years to come. I can only praise the hard work and talent they have shown, and admire the parents who sacrifice a lot of time, and without whom there would be no reflected glory for the club to bask in. It is an immense credit to the club that it has acted as a conduit for young players to thrive and improve their tennis skills. Most will not become adult champions but I hope all will reach their potential and continue to have fun on the tennis court.

There are no girls you may ask. This is a fundamental flaw in nearly all clubs and at the moment I will politely state that this is work under progress! Boys are naturally competitive, which appears to be anathema to a lot of girls as far as sport is concerned. They are attending (5-7 yr olds) and the ratio is approx. 3 -1 in favour of boys. As the players get older the ratio becomes even more predominantly boy orientated. The LTA should be taking a good look at this problem as there is more chance of finding a Grand Slam Winner in the women's sector than the men's.

Throughout the year I have kept the club/school links going with the help of Rachel Kenyon, School Sports Co-ordinator. I have visited six Junior/Primary Schools and the Faringdon Community College. Unfortunately the Sunday morning tennis sessions have been curtailed since July due to ongoing maintenance works of the tennis courts. Hopefully this will be rectified soon.

I have been working quite closely with Chris Hand who is the club coach at Shrivenham Tennis Club. He has managed to gain Faringdon Juniors access to the courts at Shrivenham for a nominal fee of £10 membership over the winter months to make use of the floodlights. This will mean that we will be able to offer a coaching programme throughout the whole year.

Finally I would like to thank all the members for their encouragement and help throughout the year. We are a small club with basic facilities, but we punch above our weight because of the family and friendly atmosphere. Champions, Winners, or players just having fun, I am proud of you all.

P.S. I would like to thank my trusted apprentices, Jess 'the Best' Williams and Julia 'Venue' Haynes. Thanks for all your hard work!

# Faringdon Tennis Club

## Ladies Coaching Report 2009

### Susanna Hunt

The ladies coaching programme comprises 4 hours per week, which run during term time only, as follows:

Tuesdays:	09.30-10.30	Experienced players
Wednesdays:	09.30-10.30	Intermediates
Thursdays:	09.30-10.30	Experienced players
Fridays:	13.00-14.00	Beginners

I have tried to cater for all levels, so there is something for existing members, who wish to play to a good standard and play some competitive tennis and also something for those who are new to tennis or returning to tennis after a break and need a friendly environment in order to gain confidence before joining the club and attending social mixed doubles sessions.

Looking at my list of regulars, almost 20 of them are now members of the club (approx 50%) and with the creation of a Ladies C team for this winter, we would hope to encourage another 4 or 5 to join in order to be eligible to play matches. Thank you to Pia Sondergeld for being captain of the C team. The membership fees, along with the visitor fees from the non members, provide a welcome income for the club.

Alan and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the club and in particular the committee for the positive attitude which they have displayed towards the children's and adult's coaching sessions.

I would also like to say a word about Alan's coaching sessions, which are a joy to witness. On Saturday mornings Faringdon tennis club is full of children enjoying the game of tennis. It is a chaotic, happy scene with balls, rackets, zig nets and children everywhere you look. The parents watch and chat and marvel at Alan's patience with the kids and the children all adore Alan. He is introducing a lot of young people to tennis, some of whom will probably go on to play for the rest of their lives and those of us that love the game of tennis, know what pleasure that brings.