

Susanna's Coaching Report for 2018 AGM

In terms of coaching, I continue to offer 4 mornings of ladies doubles, covering all levels of ability in addition to private lessons and a teenage girls group on Mondays after school. I have also held a Ladies Beginner's Group on Saturdays during the summer term to encourage new members.

The main aim of my coaching sessions is to introduce people to 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. 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 and match play. A player is not only a player, but an umpire too.

3 ladies teams and 2 mixed teams compete in the Babolat Oxfordshire summer season and 4 ladies teams in the winter. Across the squads over both seasons over 30 ladies compete. There are approx 40 who attend the coaching sessions. Next winter (Sep 2019) we would like to introduce a 5th team, a Ladies E team.

Anne Sawyer also organises 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.

A couple of the A team and the majority of the 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 approx. £3k 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 are full members.

Alan and I also run 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 Rachel Kenyon (Faringdon Community College) and Danny Taylor (King Alfred's, Wantage), so the club has good links with the local schools.

The coaching situation at the club is looking healthy, with lots on offer and most people catered for.