

The Park Tennis Club (Nottingham)

Junior Coaching Report: June 2014

Junior Coaching Classes

The number of pupils attending junior coaching classes has started to pick up again. Every spring, it always takes a number of weeks to get the momentum going again after the winter season. This year this has been exacerbated by a very wet winter and a late Easter.

Saturday Juniors Morning/ Wednesday Junior Night (8-11yrs & 12-16yrs)

This summer term, there are approx 14-18 juniors regularly attending Wednesday evening coaching and around the same number on a Saturday morning.

The classes are not the same without Carlton leading the programme, and all the children and parents have told us that they are eagerly awaiting his return!

Sunday morning Junior Coaching (4-6yrs and 6-8yrs)

Approx. 8-12 children in the 6-8yrs age group were attending coaching weekly during 2013. Sunday morning coaching for the younger junior members has been run by Jean (for over 10yrs). Last summer the programme was scaled down slightly due to Jean having to cover the Adult coaching which has also been running on Sunday morning for many years (coached by Carlton previously).

In early 2014, a lot of members were asking Jean to recommence a 4-6yrs coaching session for their younger children on a Sunday morning, and so it became apparent that in order for this to happen, we would require another coach for this.

The club committee have brought in a coaching company called Active Ace for 4 months over the Summer, to cover the 4-6yrs and 6-8yrs classes on a Sunday morning.

School Holiday Coaching

Two day fast track coaching camps were run last Summer and we were getting a reasonable number of attendees (10-12 each time). This Summer we will have one day camps running for the 8-11yrs and the 12-16yrs groups separately. It is likely, that there will also be sessions for the younger age groups running over the Summer holidays.

Coaching Assistants

Patrick Foley and James Saunders have successfully completed their Level 1 Coaching Assistants Awards. Their help with the junior coaching classes this year has been greatly appreciated by Jean & Carlton.

The juniors have enjoyed their presence and enthusiasm, they are well known and liked. They are a great role model for younger members. Patrick and James are planning on helping with the coaching camps over the Summer too!

Winter Coaching Programme

In order for a mid week session to still run during the winter. We will be approaching David Lloyd Aspley again regarding possible hire of the bubble.

Tournaments/Competitions

We have a number of junior members competing in tournaments both in Nottingham and the rest of the Midlands

Carlton and Jean have always aimed to support our players at tournaments as much as possible, especially those juniors who find it difficult to get to events and would be otherwise left on their own at events due to family circumstance. We feel it is important for us to see how juniors are performing in competitive situations and also give guidance and support in between matches. This support has not been as much as we would have liked this year due to circumstances.

Up until last year, Jean and Carlton had been running the junior tournaments and events at the club (Junior Open/ Mini Tennis Tournaments). Again, this is another area where the club committee recognised that outside assistance would be beneficial due to Jean having a lot to cover. A company called 'Make' have been brought in to run these activities. This provides our juniors with an opportunity to compete at 'home' and 'Make' have already run a number of successful tournaments during 2014.

Our older juniors represent the club in the Adult Notts Leagues and Aegon Team Tennis and contributed significantly to our teams being number 1 in the Nottinghamshire section last year. The playing standard of our juniors is now very high, with a number of tournament successes through the year, and one of the highlights is that our club currently has two County Champions in their age groups; Liam Balfe (14 & Unders), Kade Straker Meads (10 & Unders).

One of our young adults who came through the junior programme, Patrick Foley is now competing in British Tour Events this year and is beginning to progress through the draws and his game is often acknowledged by his playing peers.

Schools Programme & funding

In April 2013, Carlton & Jean started up a schools link coaching programme with Edna G Olds primary school. It is important for our club to provide genuine opportunities for people from all sections of the local community.

The coaches have also been regularly updating the club on funding initiatives, and the committee has now put in place a grants committee.

Our club must continue to establish strong community links and outreach programmes if it is to fulfil the requirements of both past and future funding grants.