

It has been another very successful year for Southbourne Tennis Club and the coaches.

This year we have continued to sustain and develop our Disability Tennis Programme and community Tennis Programme. This has continued to give the opportunity to people who may not been able to access the sport. Southbourne Tennis Club is still a leader in disability tennis in the county and the country. We have been part of the LTA Tennis for Kids programme giving around 40 new children able to play tennis for the first time.

The main aim of the coaching is to be more pro-active and provide a better facility for tennis coaching at the club and in the county. We have seen high numbers on our coaching programme often with children playing in more than one group each week.

A big thanks to Zoltan Horvath, Matt Sanger, Ray Burningham, Sally Revell, Mitch Bentley, Shuei Belcher, Keith Mitchell, Peter Richardson, Sarah Stout, Liana Hodgson, Sarah Males, Dimitri Antonio, Jack Westfield, Emily Parady, Kate Dufek, Matilda Brown and Jenny Hawkes who all help with the coaching and disability programme at the club. More volunteers are always welcome.

We have held 3 LTA Nature Valley Open Days, been part of the Littledown Family Fun Festival and held a Members Open Day and Coaches Exhibition match on Sat which all went well.

This report details more news from the rest of the year.

[U14 Road to Wimbledon Club Competition](#)

Boys Winner: Thomas Hargreaves Runner up: Benji Beale

Girls Winner: Matilda Brown

U14 Road to Wimbledon County Competition

Benji finished runner up in the County finals and qualified to play at Wimbledon.

[Junior Club Sessions](#)

Saturday Morning 10am – 11.30am & Monday Night 6-7.30pm

Aims of session:

To keep children active for 1.5 hours. Improve knowledge and skills of tennis.

Objectives:

The sessions are run offering fun competition and fun games making the sessions fun and challenging. There has been a high of about 20 children turning up on Monday evenings. Ultimately juniors will be able to progress from the Improvers group to the Intermediate group, from the Intermediates into Junior Teams, from Junior Teams into Senior Club Sessions (with approval from Coaches and Committee), from Senior Club session to play in Senior Matches for the club.

Adult Groups

These groups are based around standard. These are open to all members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge.

There are currently around 50 adults taking part in these groups ranging from beginners, improver to advanced and from 18 – 90. Also cardio tennis has around 12 adults taking part.

Aims:

Improve standard of adults, Improvement of knowledge of performance factors. which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis.

To improve competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more players involved in the club and coaching programme.

Objectives:

Help players improve technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis. Progress players into club sessions, into teams and into club tournament.

There has been a steady increase of adults playing more regularly and enjoying their tennis.

Junior Squads

These groups are based around standard and age. These are open to all junior members to help improve their tennis skills and knowledge. Each group will on average have no more than 8 children per coach.

There are currently around 30 children taking part in these squads ranging from junior improver to junior performance.

Aims:

Improve standard of children aiming at Club to County standard if not higher. To improve general competition in club. Improves standard of tennis being played and will lead to more performance players involved in the club coaching programme.

Objectives:

Improvement of knowledge of performance factors which involves technique, tactics, mental and physical parts of tennis. Players progress into junior teams and ultimately into Senior Club play and teams.

There has been a steady increase of juniors with LTA ratings who want to play in club matches and individual tournaments.

Mini Tennis Programme

Starting with numbers; **Mini Tennis Term Club Membership for all Under 10's is included in coaching course fee &** Total numbers for the year for Mini Tennis Members was 120.

We have been hard at work increasing the number of children under 10 participating in Club coaching sessions and in Mini tennis events. This has also aided in strengthening our links with St Katherine's School, St Peters & Christchurch Infants &

our Schools programme.

The number of children participating in the mini tennis programme has increased and we have a strong base of children playing at the club. All of these sessions are going well. We have been regularly holding mini tennis competitions and will look to continue this.

Mini Tennis Performance

In addition to the extra Mini Tennis sessions Performance Squads have been set up at each stage of Mini Tennis to give talented children additional tennis sessions each week.

Mini Tennis Holiday Camps

In addition to the Mini Tennis sessions we hold camps for under 10's over the school holidays. These have been very successful especially over the summer holidays where we have had a 20-30 children attending most of the individual sessions.

Competition Programme

We run a comprehensive competition programme as part of the LTA schedule and the clubs programme. Adult Box leagues have been popular and we run regular internal competitions for the under 10's which have been well attended.

Disability Tennis Programme

The disability work is going well and moving from strength to strength.

Starting with numbers; Total number playing over a month is now 119.

This breaks down to;

12 players playing in mainstream sessions, (1 transplant player, 4 Learning disabilities, 4 deaf players, 3 mental dis)

Impairment specific groups;

23 physical/wheelchair players, (8 Adult players, 2 Junior players, 1 Boscombe connect day centre, 12 from Victoria Centre.

72 Learning disability players, (15 people for our P&P LD session, and 20 from Linwood Schools and 6 with SCARF children's group. New DS Active Session added with 7 attending, 14 players with Lifeskills Autism and 10 players from Portfield School)

10 Physical / Mental disabilities, (Day centre 10 players)

2 Visually impaired players. (2 Junior VI).

Developments using funding from Tennis Foundation;

We have a weekly session with Victoria School with 6-8 players with physical disability. We have now finished the 3rd year of our Schools Hub with Victoria Education Centre. We have run 3 sessions with their sports leaders around 10 in total. We have ran sessions for around 32 students during the schools sports week.

We are running a weekly session with Linwood School for over 16 students with learning disability.

Our LD session has gone from strength to strength. We have over 20 players on our register and have had 15 players to some of the weekly sessions.

Junior DS Active session added Sat 11.30-12.30pm with 7 attendees

Ran our 7th LD tournament with 15 competitors and our 2nd Wheelchair tournament with 4 competitors for local players.

Hosted the 3rd Dorset SEND Tennis School games with 3 schools attending and 35 children attendees.

Girls Tennis Programme

We have a girls only sessions on a Friday at 5pm for girls ages 10 and over at a reduced rate of £3, we have a regular number of between 10 – 16 girls attending. We also had a project to expand tennis opportunities for girls at Schools, local guides groups and youth clubs. We had over 30 Girls playing tennis during the summer.

Youth Tennis Programme

We also had a project to expand tennis opportunities for teenagers at Schools, local scout groups and youth clubs which went really well with over 30 participants from local secondary schools and local beaver groups. We have had a record number of children volunteering and doing parts of their Duke of Edinburgh course at the Club.

Funding support for Disability and Community funds

- **Tennis Foundation £5000 towards the whole Disability programme**
- **Primrose Fund £2000 towards our wheelchair, day centre and DS Active sessions.**
- **Rotary clubs – supported our trophies for LD tournament.**
- **Local Hotel/restaurant donated meat and food for our LD BBQ**

David Sanger

Head Tennis Coach