

2020 AGM Coaching / Junior report

After what has been a very strange year for us all, I just wanted to share some updates and highlights from the junior section and coaching programme. We were delighted to welcome Alex Adie back who is coaching with us full time during his gap year and has been involved in all aspects of the programme. He joins the team of myself, Jack, Tom and Tobey, who has recently passed his level 2 qualification. We are also very grateful to Joe, Katie, Lucy and Bethan who have been assisting with sessions!

In January, we held the first of the planned open days with a mini tennis session at Hood Park leisure centre. Over 50 young children came to play tennis for free with several of them joining as members of the tennis club on the back of it. Unfortunately, the rest of the events were cancelled although we are hopeful of holding some open sessions in the new year.

One of the highlights of the year was the tournament trip to the Netherlands for the Dutch bowl for Harry Bell and Joe Murphy. After 3 cancelled flights, followed by a 12-hour car journey, the boys played 8 matches each over the week. A fantastic effort by them both saw Harry finish 3rd in the 14&U event and Joe win the 13&U consolation tournament. They did the club proud and enjoyed an experience I'm sure we'll never forget!



At the Tennis Leicestershire awards evening at the beginning of March, ACLTC were awarded 'Leicestershire tennis club of the year' for the first time in our history! This goes alongside the 'junior club of the year' award that we have won for the past two years. Well done to everyone involved with both achievements!

Fortunately, the first of several planned events to mark the 125th year of the club managed to take place with the club quiz night at Packington village hall. Congratulations to Ian Randon's team for taking the win and we look forward to your event next year!



We held the club stage of the road to Wimbledon event Sophie Ashford, Hanna Lyko, Joe Harris and Dylan Evans qualifying for the county finals. Unfortunately, these were cancelled so we will try again next year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who got involved in the activities from home during lockdown. We had 35 daily challenges; weekly skype fitness sessions for small groups of players; zoom bingo; find the ball competitions; a club quiz and a team running challenge.





Watching some of the entries come in kept us very entertained and it was great to have so many players engaged in tennis through some tough times.

In an attempt to stay fit; work as a team and raise some money, several members of the club took part in a club to club running fundraiser. Each team, junior and senior, ran the equivalent distance from Ashby to every other club in their respective divisions. A total of 74 players ran a combined distance of 1500km and raised over £1800 which was split between the NHS and the ACLTC memorial trust!

To help players get back into the feeling of playing competitive matches after lockdown, we organized junior box leagues. These proved very popular and we are planning to hold similar events through the Winter months.

On Sunday 12th July, we held the 2nd annual Ikin trophy. The plan is for this event to be open for 16&U players from around the Midlands, due to Covid guidelines we restricted it to 8 players from Ashby, congratulations to Andrei Aunianu for winning the event and Ethan Williams the runner up. All entry fees were paid into the memorial trust and the trophy was presented by Ken after some brilliant tennis.



Throughout July and August, we delivered two week-long performance camps for 11&U and 16&U team players. These proved popular and the players showed a great determination to improve throughout the week. Thank you to Angus Osborne who helped with the delivery of the camps before heading back to uni. Alex Adie also delivered a mini tennis beginners camp in August for 8&U children.

After being inspired by the 'Battle of the Brits' event in London, Ashby held our own 'Clash of the Castle' tournament! Players were split into two teams with ages ranging from 9-15. Alex Adie's Bull dogs overcame Angus' Union jacks by 60 points to 57 in what was a very close finish! Matches were played in great spirit with a good team atmosphere and lots of fun. Thanks to Gareth Bell for the idea and organization.



We will be setting up a disability coaching programme in the new year with some local schools. In order to raise funds, I arranged for my mum to be thrown out of a plane. Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the idea of this enough to donate, as we raised over £1000!



During October half term, ACLTC was selected to hold an open LTA junior grade 4 tournament. The standard was fantastic with entries from national players from around the county travelling to compete at the club. In total, 241 matches were played by 132 different players. It was also great to see so many Ashby players competing and doing well in the various age groups! We also have lots of juniors who have represented the county and/or been invited to county training this year, this takes a lot of hard work and commitment, congratulations to all of them.

Although we have not been able to spend as much time at the club and on court as I am sure we would all have liked to, I feel as a club we have still achieved an awful lot throughout the year and hope that we can continue to build on this over the next year. None of the success would be possible without the continued support of the parents and club committee so thank you once again to everyone involved. As always, any questions or comment on anything coaching or junior related, please contact me on 07931412238.

Alex Guzder

