

Coaches Report 2020/21

Coaching this year was like no other and when the start of the season arrived in April for the first time, in my 16 years coaching, the club was closed. Our annual Easter tennis camp with Easter egg hunt was unable to go ahead, much to the disappointment of our regular returning juniors. All coaching was suspended, and we started we thought would be a short break – how wrong were we! By the middle of May we were able to start teaching 1-1 and demand was high. Almost as soon as the easing of lockdown was announced both Gareth and I had full diaries.

By June we were able to offer group coaching again at the Club albeit in small groups of 4. As we had missed so much tennis earlier in the year, we continued groups throughout the summer holidays. The summer holiday group tennis proved to be a popular replacement for our usual, much bigger, tennis camps and demand for these groups was high.

By September Coaching had return to near normal. We resumed with group coaching both at the club and indoors at Aylsham High School. Groups were at capacity and 1-1 slots were also fully booked.

We have continued to be in contact with all local Schools throughout the year, but coaching sessions have yet to resume. With no ability to social distance and sessions often running in small sports halls it has not yet been safe to return. We very much look forward to when we can return to our school links as they are an especially important part of our coaching programme. This often is where children are introduced to tennis and pick up a racket for the first time. It was indeed the way both Gareth and I first picked up rackets and it something we feel extremely passionate about continuing.

Competition was extremely limited this year which was disappointing as this was an area, we particularly wanted to expand this season. We did however manage one friendly match play event at Cromer, on the grass. This event was for older juniors 12+ and everyone enjoyed a good afternoons tennis on the immaculate grass courts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Richard and all members of the committee for navigating this difficult year and keeping the club open when allowed. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to keep our Club running and we couldn't do it without these volunteers. I would also like to thank Keith Edwards for continuing to look after our courts.

In the coming year we very much hope to get our tennis camps running again alongside more competition and some fundraising tournaments. We also hope we can celebrate the club's centenary year in style in whatever format it may take.

Rachael and Gareth