

Coaching Report 2024

Following the resignation of Katie Brooks in November 2023, we initiated discussions with the National Tennis Association (NTA) in January. After many meetings and a thorough review of our current coaching setup we agreed a 3 year collaboration with NTA in March.

Our main priorities when looking for a coach or coaching team were to continue to offer opportunities for our junior membership and to improve access to coaching for our adult members. Also, we wanted an opportunity for non members to have access to coaching with a view to eventually joining the club. Financially over the previous years income from coaching has been negligible. The new partnership has shown that we will benefit considerably in comparison with previous years which is important for the future of the club. Details of this years coaching income is covered in the Treasurers Report.

We welcomed Coach Sam Crisp, Level 3, to the club in March.

Team Coaching

Pre-season coaching during April was arranged and offered to all the team players in the City League. This was very well received and well attended.

Junior Coaching

Unfortunately many of our junior members left the club to follow Katie so the take up of places in the Orange and Yellow groups was initially very slow. We currently have 12 juniors in our coaching groups at the club which is encouraging. There are currently 2 coaching groups at Cringleford Primary school and these have been full, with waiting lists, since May. Whilst the club doesn't receive any income from the School groups it is hoped that eventually juniors will feed into the clubs membership and move to coaching groups at the courts. The new Clubhouse facilities will be an important asset for junior coaching in the future.

NTA have run 3 junior camps since May and all have been well attended and generated income for the club.

Adult Group Coaching

Previously adult coaching provision was very limited and, in response to requests from our members, was an area that needed to be improved. NTA began adult beginner and intermediate groups in May and, after an initial slow start, now have 11 participants.

We continue to work with NTA to ensure that we offer members and non-members opportunities to learn and develop. This has meant that groups, particularly on Friday mornings, have been adjusted. At the time of writing we offer beginners groups and intermediate groups open to both men and women on Wednesday evenings and Friday mornings. However at present there is only 1 participant in the Friday group sessions so we are currently looking at maybe making some changes to this.

Individual Coaching

Access to members and non-members receiving individual coaching has improved significantly with NTA and Sam was able to offer coaching regularly to those individuals.

Open Days

To date NTA have supported 2 Open Days offering free taster sessions to non-members with a view to joining and have proved very successful.

Sam left NTA in August to pursue his education and we have a new coach Tom Naylor, Level 2.

Looking ahead, we would like to see further opportunities created for group and individual coaching, for both members and non-members and will continue to seek the views of members in order to enhance and promote the club. We look forward to working closely with Tom making best use of the new clubhouse when it is completed.