



DEVON DISABILITY AND INCLUSIVE TENNIS - 2020 SUMMARY

COMPETITIONS

- Maria, a wheelchair tennis player, played in the Nexus She Rallies event at the Devonshire. Fantastic to see all the girls taking part in the competition just accepting playing with or against a wheelchair player. Players were also able to try playing in a chair, which proved popular, especially with Torquay Tennis Club players and Jane and Peter Wilson.
- Tennis was one of the taster sports at the Devon Ability Games, for children with SEN. The event was held at the Plymouth Life Centre in January.

EDUCATION

- Sadly, the Disability Tennis Open Day, to be held at the SDTC in May, was cancelled. This would have been delivered by Mark Bullock and supported by Danny Sapsford, of Bright Ideas for Tennis, who were coming from London to deliver the day's activities.

PARTICIPATION

- Due to covid restrictions participation is much reduced over the year, throughout all venues. However, disability tennis has been allowed to resume, without limitation on numbers, for both indoor and outdoor venues! I feel this is an "interesting" decision.
- No access to residential home settings, so tennis sessions have ceased in this venue alongside those at memory cafes
- The wheelchair tennis group at SDTC is slowly increasing in size. Two groups are now running, following the rule of six.
- Susanne Edwards is training with Hannah Miller at Tarka. Susanne is a UK top ten wheelchair player
- ARC have run some fun tennis festivals for disabled players with numbers increasing. ARC continues to add more sessions to their disability programme, as covid allows, but great plans for 2021.
- Loddiswell tennis club has built an accessible ramp to their courts and is keen to get sessions up and running. They are looking at promoting this in the spring of 2021.

DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

- Thank you to Jemima for casting an eye over and tweaking a Sport England application for a Return to Play, post covid grant. The grant was successful which has meant that

the DOVE project (an organisation that supports people with LD) at both Plymouth and Ivybridge now have a full set of tennis kit (rackets, balls, throw down lines, cones, hoops, oversized balls and activity cards) so they can play independently of the tennis coach. They will also continue to have two coached sessions at each location each week.

COACHING

- Fiona has left her role as Open Court Lead for Devon. She will continue to work with disabled players and aim to increase participation within this sector and will volunteer with Devon LTA.

Looking forward to expanding disability and inclusive tennis in Devon in 2021.

Fiona Murphy