# **JUNIOR COACHING REPORT 2021**

**JUNIOR AND ADULT OVERVIEW**

Obviously 2020 was a very difficult year for our junior tennis programme, with plenty of stop – starting. The programme plays a big part in driving the junior membership, and as a result we saw a bit of a drop off in member numbers.

We have been able to resume the full coaching programme since Easter, and are on course to recover most junior members.

**ADULT COACHING OVERVIEW**

We suffered similar problems with the adult group coaching sessions that I run at the club. Following the resumption in late April, I am very pleased to report that our adult coaching groups are as busy as they ever have been.

### **NEW TENNIS COACH – DARREN CLARKE**

### In April we decided to take on a new full time coach to the coaching team. Darren has been known to Jamie & Jon for over 10 years, and brings a wealth of ideas and knowledge to the team. In his previous role as facilities manager for the LTA, he learnt a lot about the way different tennis venues operate. He was also able to spend time at the national training centre giving valuable insight as to how top tennis athletes train.

### **LTA YOUTH START**

### Previously marketed as Tennis For Kids, LTA Youth Start is a 6 week course aimed at children who have little or no experience of playing tennis. In May we started 4 new courses with 10 players entered onto each course. At the end of the initial 6 week course, adults were given a special offer on junior membership and a follow on course. We will know more on numbers in September, but initial figures are at around 70 to 80% retention of players. All 4 courses run by Darren, this is a huge success story.

### **COVID IMPACT**

### Whilst the impact of Covid on the tennis club has been hugely frustrating, there does seem to have been a sea-change in many people’s attitudes to getting out and trying something new. I don’t remember a busier time in my 18 years at the club.

### September will see several new adult beginner courses adding to the opportunities available to new-to-tennis or returners to the game. We aim to repeat the success of the LTA youth Start courses and continue to build the junior membership aiming towards 200 members.

**COUNTY CUP**

Woodbridge Tennis Club were once again asked to host the County Cup event – this time the Under 14 competition at the end of May. Another fantastic weekend of high quality tennis was on offer for all to see.

### **JUNIOR COMPETITION**

* Sunny Sunday team challenges
* Junior Club sessions
* Suffolk Tennis Grand Prix

### **FREE TENNIS SUNDAYS, TOUCH TENNIS & WTC GRASS COURTS (!)**

* 3 x Sunday afternoon free sessions
* Darren Clarke’s 3 x grass courts next to court 4.

**THANK YOU**

Darren Clarke, Martyn Bullingham,

Simon Evans who continues to support the club and keep things running as smoothly as possible.