

2019 JUNIOR REPORT FOR AGM TUESDAY 16TH APRIL

by Hazel Brownlee / Mel Burn

Our last report mentioned how coaching numbers had fallen significantly between September 2017 to March 2018, and why? Fortunately this blip did pick up and with the start of the new summer coaching programme April 2018 over 75 children attended this weekly programme.

The summer coaching programme is still definitely the most popular time of year, especially for the younger children and definitely we have a lot of fair weather parents!! As we know participation is dropping in tennis generally across the country.... Hazel and I have discussed this on numerous tea breaks, and we believe part of the decline in participation at the tennis club is due to more internally organized after school clubs within the school premises. These are often subsidized by the schools. Schools are given a yearly lump sum to spend towards appropriate activities, and some of these are even free to attend. More private providers are also setting up 'after school' clubs within schools too. Major benefit - ideal for parents to keep the pupil at school and collect later.

Also, Horsenden ltc could have had a knock on effect to attendance and junior membership, our closest local tennis club have reduced their membership junior fees to only £17.50 per annum in 2018 to entice new junior members / members generally which we believe has had some effect on our junior membership (currently 62).

Junior Events held over the course of the year included

QUORN FAMILY CUP – won by Gus and Daniel McClarty

ROAD TO WIMBLEDON – won by Nick Beale represented the club at county level

JUNIOR TEAM TENNIS – boys Under 18 2018 winners DIV 2 (Jack Long, Joseph Bixley, Anthony Joseph)

JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEASONAL EVENTS

PIZZA NIGHT – APRIL '18, with assistance from Anthony H, Ryan T, and Joseph B

EASTER / SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS

LOCAL FRIENDLIES v Prestwood, Long Crendon, Thame

TENNIS TASTER SESSIONS AT LOCAL PRE-SCHOOLS

ST TERESA'S TENNIS FESTIVAL HELD AT THE TENNIS CLUB

GIRLS TENNIS

Girls tennis continued on Sundays. Numbers fluctuate but we have the hard core of 5 teenage girls who come rain or shine.

Again, Hazel and I are proud and pleased to see that a number of juniors continue their development to senior tennis. 2018 has included Jack Long, Anthony Joseph, Matthew Heald, Joseph Bixley and Isobel Mathews. With the help of Mike Piercy and Sarah James these juniors are integrated to our senior team training, leading to playing in senior team tennis which all of them have done in 2018.

HAZEL

Hazel is stepping down as club Junior Organiser. Personally, I would like to say a very big thank you and how grateful to Hazel I am for all her years of support to me since being club coach, and to Hazel volunteering her endless hours of on court time with the juniors over the last number of years. This Junior Organiser role is a big role. It's listening, helping, caring, advising, enthusing, telling off (politely), 'being a mum', being a coach, doggie pooper scooper, snotty nose wiper... and her favourite NOT debt collector (the worse job for Hazel!).. the list goes on ...

Hazel has been coming down on Friday nights supervising the juniors for more years than I can recall, even before I joined the club. It was a yearly volunteering service with sometimes only 2 players turning up. We changed this a few years ago to give Hazel a few Friday nights off!!

I was proud of Hazel when she decided and passed her level 2 tennis coaching qualification a few years ago, and since then Hazel has assisted me without fail over the years here at the club.

Thank you Hazel for being a brick, you will be sorely missed generally but especially on Friday nights. But she won't be completely disappearing as she has promised to continue to be my coaching assistant into her 80s.