

## **Phoenix Tennis Report 2024**

### **Phoenix Programme**

The programme has undergone some changes this term which appear to have worked really well, there has been lots of movement in terms of groups with the new school year but it's all settled into place smoothly.

After a few years of the same timings the coaches have been glad of a freshen up and it's allowed some players a chance to push themselves with some new advanced classes.

The 8-12 age range in particular is really thriving with players pushing each other weekly and we're seeing signs of a rich vein of strong players coming through soon. Our aim is to get a good number of these playing in junior competitions next summer.

Over the year the junior programme has been going very well, we are still seeing a steady growth of juniors at the lower ages with our continued loss when juniors go to University or focus heavily on their A levels.

The adult programme still offers a great introduction to new players joining the club with a variety of new players this term as well as some returning members! Our intermediate groups in particular are thriving with some of these players representing the club strongly.

### **Holiday Camps**

As usual holiday camps continue to be a fun part of our year, bringing plenty of new faces to our club. The timings continue to be working well as we have attracted stronger juniors in our afternoon sessions whilst keeping our regular numbers. Numbers have grown this year, after concerns of increased competition from such a range of clubs nowadays. The strong coaching line-up this summer proved effective, we were very grateful to have Katie Searle helping us!

### **Drills**

Drills have continued to be a highlight for the coaches' week, during the off seasons numbers have been healthy and during the competitive season slightly lower. There doesn't seem to be an issue with drills being full every week, which means members can always attend. It also leads to more varied sessions as it's not the same number each week, we are now capping numbers lower on some weeks and higher on others to allow varied sessions.

We've changed the requirements slightly for advanced drills trying to make these faster paced and of a higher standard. We've also added a brand new drills on Wednesday lunchtime as a middle ground between Friday morning and Saturday morning drills.

### **Coaching Team**

Zach continues the ever constant with myself. He has continued to push our top juniors with several of them now representing the county.

We have missed Oscar's incredible energy with our juniors and camps, this has not been matched by any coach I've seen.

Finlay, for those who aren't aware, chose not to go to University and is training to become a mountain guide. This is a long process so we hope in between his incredible trips and courses he'll be with us. He's been fantastic with the adults and juniors and is well loved.

### **Penny Allberry Award**

This year's award still needs to be decided.

### **Final Thoughts**

We'd like to have a bit more of a social media presence so that juniors and adults can hear more about what we're doing over the next year.

We'd like to continue to find ways for our juniors to experience more social competition (for those wanting a step between LTA events and coaching sessions).