

## **Phoenix Tennis Report 2025**

### **Phoenix Programme**

The Phoenix programme continues to be many people's first steps into the club. The programme continues to be a very fun, relaxed environment with many people still accessing our great coaches! Even putting up with all the sarcasm.

Our junior programme is still doing well in the 4-8 and 10-16 age ranges, but we need to bolster the transition between red to orange ball stage. This is where tennis becomes a challenge as its less games and more points! So, we may need to access the local schools or do some more advertising which we haven't done much of for the programme.

Our adult programme is doing well with many of our previous beginner and rusty players now playing for teams and doing well. There are spaces on nearly every course, so members have a great chance of accessing us. We added an extra adult session which is doing well but will be on pause until Finlay's return.

Many adult members also access private tuition throughout the week to hone their skills. With every coach struggling to fit in every lesson it appears to need an extra coach however there simply isn't enough work for three full time coaches or court space so having Finlay coach alongside his climbing career is a great fit. All his clients love him!

### **Holiday Camps**

As last year, holiday camps continue to be a fun part of our summer season, bringing plenty of new faces to our club. The timings continue to be working well with numbers being strong and the standard very high, the only criticism is that they're not long enough. However, we don't want to be a daycare and must fit in all our other sessions. Numbers have grown this year, which was a surprise, after concerns again of increased competition from such a range of clubs nowadays. I think the weather played a strong part in this. The strong coaching line-up this summer proved effective, we were very grateful to have Katie Searle helping us again. We'd like to do some spring and autumn camps like we used to but without a clubhouse we didn't risk it this year. Advertising plays a strong part in the camps so should be looked into for new programme players.

## **Drills**

Drills continue to be great fun with Jono often capping numbers so the coaches can join in too, to add some energy and change drill dynamics. Katie helping to feed over the summer really helped alleviate pressure on bookings

## **Coaching Team**

Zach continues to be the ever constant with me. He has continued to push our top juniors and his love for our club shines through. Jonty, Freddie and Phoebe continue to represent Gloucester.

Finlay is currently off climbing Mera Peak in Nepal. He's training to be a mountain guide and recently passed one of his courses. He really helps ease the pressure on Zach and Jono, his lessons are great and his work ethic is amazing.

Katie is soon to be a level 2 coach and it's great having a female role model for our juniors when she's back from Uni.

Phoenix has also helped two more coaches through their level 1 badges and with a national coach shortage it's great to know we'll have helped that.

## **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).

Excited for a clubhouse to survive the winter with!!!