

Oswestry Team Tennis

NEWSLETTER No 14 – Summer 2021



Photos left to right Hattie Leslie Miller and Nia Christoforou

Introduction

Hi everyone

Well I hope you are all okay, keeping safe and enjoying being back on the courts. I went to Ben's "Rusty Rackets" on Thursday morning for the first time two weeks ago, and to meet new people, hit a ball and find you still have ball eye coordination, felt very encouraging and such fun!!

Clubhouse Proposal

Our Clubhouse feasibility study was presented by myself and Gavin Porritt – Design & Planning Associates Limited to Cae Glas Park Charity Management Group Zoom meeting on 17th June, and recommendations are now going through to the Council on 19th July for its consideration. We shall hear where we are with our proposal hopefully very soon and then be able to move forwards. I have attached the link to the feasibility study article posted online yesterday by Border Advertiser.

<https://www.bordercountiesadvertiser.co.uk/news/19442952.oswestry-team-tennis-plans-given-council-support-meeting/>

Covid 19 Rules

Please don't overlook that our Covid 19 club rules to provide a safe and secure location also covering the booking of and use of our courts are still in operation as well as observing social distancing etc, e.g. hands, face, space. The LTA will be updating their guidance notes after the announcement by Boris Johnson on Monday July 19th so I will be writing out to you accordingly.

"LTA Tennis Coach Education"

This management tool has been hugely important to me over many years, as it is fundamental in helping to develop tennis opportunities. My congratulations therefore go to Hattie and Nia pictured above. Both are currently going through the LTA

coach education scheme, and I am very proud of their achievements. Hattie started with OTT back in 2008 when I went in to Oswestry Catholic Primary School to deliver after school sessions, and Nia joined us back in 2015 having started her tennis journey elsewhere. Ben Judd has covered their successful progress to date in more detail in his report below.

I am also very proud of Ben and Blake or “Tennis2You” who both started their tennis with OTT when they were very young, and have risen to the challenge to take over running our coaching in 2018. “Grow your Own” is therefore an important policy for our club. Our club supports youngsters as much as it can on and off court in this respect. We have seen a number of them go through this route over the years, so I hope you will consider this opportunity for your child when the time comes.

The question to my mind is “Who will be our next Hattie and Nia?!”

Membership update

Thank you so much to all 194 of you who are signed up OTT members, which is as high as it has ever been. It has obviously been a very challenging year for everyone, so to get this response is overwhelming. You will be pleased to know you will be receiving a request from Blake on behalf of the club for 2021/22 membership fees which is due on 1st September. You may have noticed from previous communications that at our AGM, we kept our fees at the same level as 2020/21, which hopefully helps a little with your finances.

Last but not least, my congratulations must go to both Sam Sperring and Jessica Parsons-Hann – read about their success in Ben Judd’s report on Road to Wimbledon U14 Competition – see below.

Coaches report by Ben Judd

Since our return to the courts back in late March, after lock down finished, we have seen all our members and players in coaching return with a smile. It’s great seeing them all learning and having fun over these past months, so much improvement has gone on, with many of the kids taking time out at home to squeeze in some practice in this garden.

Road to Wimbledon – U14’s

Road to Wimbledon, took place at our courts back in May, with 6 boys and 4 girls all taking part. This was a fun Saturday afternoon of good quality matches, with Alfie Edwards winning the boys draw and Jessica Parson-Hann winning the girls draw. Runners up were Sam Sperring and Maisie Anderson. All 4 players went onto play at the Shrewsbury Club for the county finals on Saturday 10th and 11th July and putting on a good enjoyable performance, with Sam and Jess both coming 3rd in the boys and girls draw respectively, which was an outstanding achievement.

Coaching Update and what on over summer

Our total number of players in coaching a week before March was around 100, this has seen a 30% increase since returning in late March. This is mainly down to flyers sent around to schools and through the use of social media for advertising. This increase has meant that all our groups are at full capacity, with extra sessions being put on for those who would otherwise be on a waiting list. It is also thanks to our top assistants, Nia, Hattie, and Kobe whose hard work, sociable, friendly and fun personalities creates a warm welcome to the courts and helps us spread the load during sessions, giving more time to the child, and help them improve and have fun.

Nia is currently on and soon to finish her LTA Level 2 coaching certificate, which is the next big step in becoming fully qualified tennis coach. She will be able to run group sessions through our supervision. During this last month, she has run some sessions, which has contributed to her Level 2 certificate, helping her gain experience and practice what she is learning on the course. Hattie has also finished her LTA level 1 certificate, making her a certified assistant. She will be moving onto her LTA level 2 coaching certificate soon, which is exciting.

All these assistants are available for hitting sessions (NOT COACHING), which is a great way to give you child more tennis experience, hitting plenty of tennis balls with the hitter. It is £7 for an individual hour or £3.50 for a pair’s hours. This is a great way to improve as the more tennis you can play and the longer rallies you can have with someone, it really helps bring on confidence when playing. It is also great fun and as many of you know, these young assistants are very friendly. If you want to arrange a hitting session, just ask Blake or myself and we will arrange with the hitter.

In addition to our junior tennis lessons, there is also tennis for adults. I run a lady’s tennis night (Tennis Tuesdays) every Tuesday from 7pm and a morning Rusty Rackets session on Thursdays at 9.30 and an evening one on Fridays at 7pm. These sessions are for everyone, are a great way of learning some tennis skills and tactics as well as meeting new people and having a fun chinwag. There is also Blake’s Cardio Tennis, which runs every Wednesday from 7pm. This is more about burning calories, so if you can’t play don’t worry, it’s about chasing a tennis balls to music and having a laugh.

Through the summer holidays, all our regular coaching session will stop, however we will be running some weekly junior and adult sessions for those who are not soaking up the sun on holiday. These will be every Tuesday and Wednesday, unless

notified by the coach. (as we too might want to soak some sun up one week!!) They will be pay and play sessions, costing £6 per player a session. Bookings are to be made one week before the session you wish to attend as spaces are limited and payment to be made asap once your place is confirmed. Children aged 5 to 10 are at 4pm – 4.55pm - Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and children aged 11 to 16 are at 5pm – 5.55pm – Tuesdays and Wednesdays. For parents/guardians wanting to play some tennis through the summer, we are running coaching on Tuesdays at 6.30pm – 7.25pm and Thursdays at 9.30pm – 10.25pm, and Cardio on Wednesdays at 6.30pm – 7.25pm. This is also pay and play of £6 for members and £7 non-members.

These summer programmes start on the week commencing 26th July until w/c 23rd August (**please be aware that some sessions might not run if the coach is away, so please contact us first before paying**) If you are interested in what we are doing over summer, please contact Tennis2You number - 07515 822921. (**PLEASE HAVE A LOOK AT THE ATTACHED FLYER**)

Thank you all

I would like to finish with thanking the youngsters for always turning up and being so happy over these months, it always brings smiles to our faces. Also, a thanks to those who bring them down each week and without whom, we wouldn't have them attending, so thank you. We hope to see as many of you over the summer and after, when our coaching resumes in September.

Ben Judd

Wimbledon

I hope you managed to sit down as a family to watch some of the amazing matches over the two week period. Watching on TV though is not quite the same as being there. The ball moves so fast at 130mph, whereas on TV, you wonder why he or she did not get to the ball! Then there is the atmosphere which is unique and in such a remarkable setting. I was there in 2019, and it always provides an unforgettable experience. **Perhaps this is something for you to consider in 2021?!**

On the first Thursday of Wimbledon this year, one of our junior members Catrin Hopkins and her dad were able to get tickets for centre court and watch some high quality tennis. Blake asked Catrin was there anything that stood out from her day that she really enjoyed and who was her favourite player she watched and anything else she would like to add and this was her reply.

“One of my favourite parts of the day was the Federer vs Gasquet match because of the sheer power and speed of their shots; however the ladies matches were also very good because of the technicality in them. My favourite player was Anna Blinkova because even though she was playing against the world ladies number 1(Ashleigh Barty), she gave it her all and even when she hurt herself kept going.

Another thing I loved during the day was the fact that they sold the used tennis balls - and it was fun because of not knowing which court they had been used on or which players had used them! I was lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time and so I got 2 tubes of balls. I really enjoyed my time there and hope I can have the chance to go again!!”

Catrin even managed to get onto TV while Barty was being interviewed! **See if you can spot her!!**



Glad you and your dad had a great day Catrin and great pictures 🦿🦿🦿

Competition

Girls National League match U18 v Shrewsbury photo and report – provided by Gary Edwards



Left to right – OTT Jessica Parsons Hann, Millie Parsons Hann, Shrewsbury Maisie Evans and Lily Evans

Oswestry Team Tennis hosted the Shrewsbury Club Tennis Centre in the Girl's National League 18 & Under Shropshire division tournament match.

It was a family affair as the young starlet sisters Millie and Jessica Parsons-Hann represented Oswestry against the sister combination from Shrewsbury of Maisie and Lily Evans.

The first Single's rubber saw Millie play some terrific tennis, overcoming rain and thunder delays to record a superb win over the older Evans sister, Maisie by a score of 6-3, 7-6.

The other Single's rubber saw debutant Jessica also playing some super and strong tennis, but was not able to over-come the more experienced Lily Evans in poor match conditions.

So the match was to be decided on the doubles rubber played between the two sets of sisters. Great play ensued with sharp and accurate match-play tennis. The rubber was nip and tuck throughout with the Oswestry girls winning the first set 6-4 but losing the second set 4-6. The Shrewsbury Club girls finally won through by taking the tense third set to-break play-off to win the match.

Social Event for Oswestry Team Tennis and Oswestry Tennis Club - Sunday August 1st 2pm – 5pm

This event is one of the first that both clubs have combined which is supported by two £75 grants provided from Oswestry Community Games 2021 to create more activities at the clubs, as the Community Games is sadly not being held this year.

This social gathering competition with OTC is on Sunday August 1st at 2pm till 5pm. It is going to spread between OTT and OTC courts, with both club's players mixing one junior and one adult together. They will play as many one set matches in that time. It is not compulsory to stay the whole three hours! There is no charge for taking part – just bring a smile!!

If you are interested in taking part, please get in touch with Ben Judd on 07515 822921.

Solicitors Car Park Usage

Last but not least, please remember our members are only allowed to use this car park at weekends or on weekdays after 6pm, and it is not a facility to drive in and to “drop your child off” before 6pm.

Please do not abuse this privilege.

Take your child to the park gate entrances for the club before 6pm sessions otherwise you will upset the solicitors, who are very important to us.

