

## Saxmundham Tennis Club

### Head Coach's Report for the Annual General Meeting on 17 February 2022

#### **Average attendance per session since September 2021**

1. Youth Red (4–7-year-olds) Wed 4-5pm – an average of 5, this class always struggles this time of year mainly due to the weather.
2. Youth Orange (7–9-year-olds) Wed 5-6pm – an average of 6, about right for recent times, although in the past numbers have been much stronger for this group.
3. Youth Green (9-12) Thu 5-6pm – an average of 9. This session has taken a hit like all sessions in January with Covid-19 rife in many schools; however still a very strong weekly core. The issue here is that many are on the older side and will be in Teen Tennis by the summer, with orange numbers low there won't be many moving up to this group to replenish numbers.
4. Teen Tennis (12+) Fri 5-6pm – an average of 10, again lower in January but very strong throughout the year now. A fantastic success given that not too long ago there was no session for teenagers. This will be replenished well with strong Green numbers and the majority of players are at the age where they will continue with the teen session for a few more years. A couple are 16 which begs the question, how the club further retains them once they feel their too old for this session? Girls could be made aware of Ladies Tennis session on a Tuesday though I would suggest this would only work if they went with friends as they might feel out of place if alone. As for the boys, thought is needed on how we keep 16+?
5. Aldeburgh Juniors (4-10) Sat 9-10am – an average of 6, though incredibly bad luck since the end of November with the weather, be it ice or rain. Very few sessions been able to go ahead since then.
6. Men's Team Training Mon 6-8pm – extremely successful in the summer but now only an average of 6, usually consisting of 4 1<sup>st</sup> team players and third team players. Ideally this would need eight each week to work at its best, it is a fantastic way to train as a team and get match ready.
7. Ladies Coaching Tue 6-7pm – again, a very strong summer but now only our superstar year-round core players of Fiona, Jo, Nicole, and Fran remain. It would be good to get numbers back up again as we edge towards spring.
8. Cardio Tennis Thu 6-7pm – the same as above, a few new faces though, so I hope to get this back to its former glory. Overall, a poor year numbers-wise for this season and this session needs further support from club members to remain in place.

## **New sessions, Wed AM, Girls Only, Tennis Xpress**

1. Wednesday morning coaching – this will restart on 9 Feb after having to halt due to poor numbers. Again, like Cardio Tennis, this was once a strong session numbers-wise but struggled with the start/stop nature of Covid-19 in the last few years. Again, this session will need club members' support to keep going.
2. Girls-only Junior session Tuesdays 5-6pm – project to be announced at next meeting but the aim is to get more 9–12-year-old girls attending weekly sessions with a long-term aim of also having an additional session for older girls aged 12-16. Having a session available for mixed and for girls will allow girls the freedom to choose which session they feel suits them best, and will hopefully result in retaining more girls at the club, as currently there is a gap in the 9–12-year-old age group.
3. Tennis Xpress, with help of coach Richard Crone, will be delivering a series of sessions aimed at those new to the game or who have had a few years out. Dates to be confirmed but the first target audience is our members' other halves and family, so please spread the word.

## **Project Restart – 3 schools all confirmed, 1 in the process**

1. Saxmundham Primary School – after-school club and in-curriculum coaching from 6 June to 11 July.
2. Kelsale Primary School – in-curriculum coaching at our courts from 26 April to 11 July.
3. Alde Valley Academy, Leiston – weekly after-school club effectively throughout the school year.
4. Saxmundham Free School – dates unconfirmed, though the school is interested and looking like we will provide in-curriculum sessions between March-June.

## **Open Day**

A rough idea of date to be confirmed at next meeting, however we have already booked a full day of taster sessions with Saxmundham Primary School on 16 May.

## **Price increase**

There is an unavoidable price increase on individual sessions, those having weekly or those block booking 10 now costs £27 per hour, members who have the odd or one-off session is now £30 an hour, and non-members £35 an hour. Half an hour is £20 for members, £25 non-members.

## Easter Camps

I'm in the early process of setting up Easter Camps, which will be every Tuesday and Thursday though times and pricing are yet to be confirmed.

## Suggestions

There is always scope for new sessions, therefore please let me know of any ideas or interest.

## Club Competition

The club's ladder league started well with plenty of games, but has slowed down since the Christmas break and due to bad weather. We are hoping to reignite it for a strong finish for the tournament.

Remember, the main point of it is to generate more matches for everyone, even if that means you only end up playing a match once or twice until the end of the tournament it's keeping the momentum of club competitions up as we go into the box leagues.

## Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team Match Report

Team includes myself, Ewan Threadkell, Ian Portal, Chris Hirst and Anthony Tolman. Until last week we were unbeaten but despite that defeat, we are still in prime position to win the league. We have three games remaining, one win and a draw seals promotion and two wins will see us clinch the title.

<b><u>Mens – Division 2</u></b>	P	W	D	L	Pts	Set Diff
Saxmundham 1	6	4	2	0	10	16
Framlingham	7	3	2	2	8	4
Woodbridge 1	7	3	1	3	7	3
Ipswich 2	7	1	4	2	6	-8
Sproughton 2	6	2	1	3	5	2
Adastral Park 1	7	1	2	4	4	-17

**Matthew Last**  
**Head Coach**