

Silloth Tennis Club

Report by Gareth Lewis

As the summer rapidly approaches, and hopefully some good weather with it, it is time to outline the clubs plan for the 2003 season.

Firstly the membership fees for the coming season.

Adult membership (18 years of age +) will be £10 per adult. This covers the £6 LTA affiliation fee, provides free entry to all tournaments, 6 weekly coaching sessions for free and reduced rates on any further coaching session.

Junior membership (under 18 years old) will be £5 per junior. This covers the £2.25 LTA affiliation fee, provides free entry to all tournaments, 6 free coaching sessions and reduced rates for any further coaching sessions.

Family membership fee will be £20. This is based on either 2 adults & 1 junior, 2 adults & 2 juniors or 1 adult & 3 juniors. For larger family groups arrangements can be made.

All full club members will be able to participate in the club night, which is held every Tuesday evening at the Skinburness Road courts. The full range of tennis equipment will be available for all to use.

For those who do not wish to become a full club member you can pay only for entry to tournaments (adults - £3, juniors £1).

The proposed tournament structure for the 2003 season is:

Adults

Mens tennis
Mens championship
Mens doubles
Womens championship
Womens doubles
Mixed doubles
all start May 1st, with finals held on 12th/13th July.

Juniors

David's cup to be held Sunday 20th July.

Under 11's boys/girls & under 16 boys/girls

competitions start May 1st with the finals weekend 21st/22nd June

Last year our adult and junior tournaments were a great success. The enthusiasm shown by the tennis players of Silloth was fantastic. We would like to see all those who played last year out in force again to make this season as successful. We would also like to see anyone who has an interest in the game to join the club.

Don't be scared that you won't be good enough; it's all about having a great time playing tennis.

COACHING

To avoid last year's problem of overcrowding and over subscription to coaching sessions we are offering more sessions with fewer numbers in each to provide a better quality of coaching. The sessions will be as follows:

TENNIS TOTS

Aimed at nursery and reception ages these will be half hour sessions concentrating on the development of motor and coordination skills with a massive emphasis on FUN, FUN, FUN!!!!

The first 6 sessions are free for members and 50p at all other times.

Coaching for children is now split into three coloured coded categories, RED, ORANGE and GREEN:

MINI TENNIS RED

Using foam balls, mini nets and small rackets on a badminton sized court mini tennis red is the natural progression from tennis tots, where again, motor and coordination as well as receiving and sending skills are at the forefront. These are mixed with an introduction to body movement and decision making skills.

The first 6 sessions for mini tennis red are also free for members and will be £1 at all other times.

MINI TENNIS ORANGE

With a shortened tennis court, small rackets and orange transition balls (slow, soft tennis balls) mini tennis orange is quite a step up from mini tennis red, but is designed for those players ready to make that step up towards the bigger game. The first 6 sessions for mini tennis orange are also free for members and will be £1 at all other times.

MINI TENNIS GREEN

Mini tennis green is the last stop before the full game. It is played on the full court, but with a green transition ball (slightly slower and softer than a normal tennis ball). Players almost ready for the transition to full tennis will be in this group and we will be looking at aspects such as tactics, technique and the physical and mental sides of the game. We will also concentrate on match play, doubles and tournament structures.

The first 6 sessions for mini tennis green are also free for members and will be £1 at all other times.

JUNIOR COACHING

For those able to play the full game, the junior sessions will provide a chance to hone their game and concentrate on consistency, better technique and tactical decision-making, which will hopefully translate to their match play.

The first 6 sessions for juniors are also free for members and will be £1 at all other times.

ADULT COACHING FOR BEGINNERS

These will be gentle introductory sessions aimed at those who haven't played for a long time and parents hoping to play tennis with their children. There will be no pressure to perform and as with all our coaching sessions the emphasis will be on fun and enjoyment.

The first 6 sessions

for adults are free for members and will be £2 at all other times.

INDIVIDUAL LESSONS

Individual lessons can also be arranged for any age or ability with reduced fees for club members.

MAYDAY TASTER SESSIONS

Why not come along on Monday 5th May between 12 and 6pm to sample some free taster coaching sessions to see what coaching is the best for you or your child?

Please look out for posters in the town.

SCHOOLS' MINI TENNIS RED TOURNAMENT

On the 9th March 2003, Silloth Primary School sent two teams to take part in the schools' mini tennis tournament at St. Benedict's School, Whitehaven. So please look out for results and details in the next issue of the Buzz as the tennis season begins to gather momentum.

The success of last year's tournaments, and the club overall, also owes a great deal to the generosity of the community shop and local businesses. Without their sponsorship we would not have been able to provide the range of tournaments that we did, and afford to buy the latest coaching equipment for our junior members. If you own a local business and wish to be associated with the tennis club, through either sponsorship of a tournament or a donation to the running of the club, then please contact David Wise.

Look out for next months report with more info on the clubs summer program of activities, as we look to make 2003 a bumper year for tennis in Silloth.

Contacts.

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