



COACH'S REPORT 2021

It's been another year of disruption to the coaching programme, with more flooding, lockdown, and court resurfacing. We weren't able to get going until May, but the time off was put to good use.

I delivered online workouts and lessons. We were able to raise over £6000 for the club from online and virtual activities. It's thanks to the adults and children in the coaching programme who got involved and helped raise such an amazing amount of money. In particular, a huge thank you has to go to Cath for her organisation of online activities and Jess and Rach for their organisation of the Road to Roland Garros Challenge.

At the end of January, I was very proud to be awarded Gloucestershire LTA Coach of the Year. Thank you to everyone who nominated and thanks for the many lovely messages of congratulations I received.

Unfortunately, history repeated itself and there was, yet again, very little interest in the men's coaching sessions that were offered when we restarted the coaching programme in the spring (we only had 3 men sign up). Therefore, this session was cancelled.

However, for the first time in two years I was able to start a new 'beginners' class. This is a mix of men and women, all who have signed for their second term of coaching and are way ahead of expected targets by this stage in their training.

Gemma Jenkins achieved her first official LTA qualification. Gemma, Jess and Rach became qualified She Rallies ambassadors. They hosted their first session at Lydney Park Courts in September and successfully managed to convert some of the participants into the club coaching programme. Well done to the three of them.

This year I have set up the RW Tennis Foundation which will help out those in need, financially or in other exceptional circumstances where we, as coaches, feel that someone could benefit from our help and support. We currently have one child in the coaching programme funded by this scheme.

It's been a successful summer with improvements all round in those receiving coaching and this has been obvious watching, in particular, the ladies competently compete in the Gloucestershire Summer League with most teams finishing in first or second place. The progress in the junior section is also obvious and it's exciting to watch the development and progress of our youngsters. We have entered a girls' team for the first time in the Gloucester 14 and under winter league.

As we head towards the end of the year, I will be arranging a Christmas party for the children in the coaching programme and a triples tournament for all adults and older junior members of the club.

Looking ahead to next year, I will be looking to further upgrade my coaching CV. I feel that it's important to stay updated and fresh with new ideas and resources. I will continue the development of everyone in the coaching programme and work closely with those who want to set and work towards personal goals in their tennis.

As always, thanks to the LTC committee for their support and to my team of coaches who make the programme a success. A huge thank you to my dedicated coaching partner Cath and my assistants Jess, Rach, and Gemma.

Rachael Wintle, Head Coach