

**BRAID LTC**  
**JUNIOR NEWSLETTER**  
(RICK BAKER – JUNIOR CONVENOR)

**SUMMER 2011**

Junior Members/Parents,

**Hey Guys – School's out for summer!!**

Hands up if you want to stay in school and forget having any holidays?!  
Ah, yes, I thought that would be the answer!  
Now you can play tennis **ALL SUMMER!!!!**

With the onset of holidays and the finish of the adult match season there will be plenty **free court time** so grab your racket and your friends or parents and get out on court.....the summer won't last long!

**JUNIORS – 2011 SUMMER SEASON**

I note that lots of kids have been enjoying our free coaching and have had a great time with Ross Collinson this Spring session, but as you may all know Ross is leaving us to start work in the States.....I am sure you would like to join me in wishing Ross a fantastic future, and he will be sorely missed by one and all at the club as he was a great favourite with the kids (and adults no less).

We will begin coaching again in the autumn (end August) once everyone is back from holidays etc. with our new Club Coach – Andrew Maclaren (more below) taking over the Junior coaching role every Sunday.



## **NEW CLUB COACH!**

The tennis club is delighted to welcome along our new **Club Coach** – **Andrew Maclaren** who has been recommended to us by Ross and is an LTA qualified coach.

Andrew will be in touch separately regarding some summer camps soon and basically just introducing himself, but should anyone have any queries or would like to chat to Andrew about private coaching etc then just get in touch with him directly.....his details, like mine, are appended below.

## **JUNIOR BOX LEAGUES! – Starting soon! – TAKE NOTE!**

After some very positive feedback, we are keen to get the junior membership involved in playing some matches against each other. Playing against each other helps in many ways not least the kids get to play against possible 'new' friends and also it teaches them about scoring and how to behave in matches etc.

The plan is to introduce mini box leagues which works just like a football league where each kid in his/her league plays the other kids once.....the winner of the box league is the person who has won the most matches! ☺ Don't be put off by this as it is only a friendly league against the guys you meet every Sunday, so please DO consider playing in the league at your level. These leagues will be ability (firstly) and age, based so there is a fair chance for everyone to play against people who are at the same level as them!

Roughly speaking we are thinking of the following;

**Under 16 Box League**

**Under 12 Box League**

**Under 8 Box League**

As our membership at different ages is quite mixed we will only be offering 'mixed' leagues at the moment (boys and girls in same league). I have attached a separate 'example' in this email using some of the kids names to give a flavour of what it would look and work like.....take a peek.

Even if there are only 3 players in a league it still means you get a couple of matches against people of your age and ability. Once we have finalised numbers and entrants for each league you will be sent a sheet with the guys in your group with telephone numbers etc and all you then have to do is arrange when to play them at a convenient time for you both. Simple!

**Please email me back by 5<sup>th</sup> August as we are keen to get these leagues up and running for schools returning. Just a quick note saying you are interested in playing in a box league and leave it to me.**

## **JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP!**

For many years now we have had NO Junior championships taking alongside the seniors (adults) on championship finals & BBQ day in September. We have had such a great response to the club coaching the last year or two and again, listening to feedback, we have decided to resurrect the Junior Club Championships this year.

These will be mixed champs I'm afraid (c'mon girls, we know you are the best players at the club!) due to numbers at each age level, and we again are proposing thus;

**Under 16 Championship**  
**Under 12 Championship**  
**Under 8 Championship**

The age rules (as with the box leagues) will be almost in line with the LTA rules and shall be determined by what age the person is at **31<sup>st</sup> August** which will also double as the last day to enter for this new prestigious event! We have to draw the line somewhere and if your child is disadvantaged one year then they will still get 2 or 3 years at the next level etc. More motivation to do well!

EG; A child turns 8 in November.....they can play in the Under 8 champs. If however they turn 8 in June, they MUST 'play up' in the Under 12 champs as they will not meet the criteria for playing at Under 8 at 31/8/11.

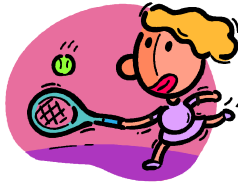
This should give all our junior members the chance at some stage in each 4 year period to compete for one of the championships. Wouldn't it be nice if we had 3 different winners every year! 😊

The championships will take place in the week leading up to and including Finals/BBQ day at the club in September (date to be confirmed) but needless to say that ALL age group finals will take place that day. Watch this space for more details.....



**AND FINALLY.....**

As always I'm really looking forward to helping **ALL the Juniors** in the coming season and if there is anything that you guys feel would help you as Juniors, then please just yell out to me or tell your parents and they will tell me!! 😊  
See you on court soon!



**PARENTS** - My contact details are below, as are Andrew Maclaren's (Club Coach) .....and please feel free to get in touch with any ideas or proposals which you or your children may have about the Junior section as we move forward through the year. One final thought.....**print this and let the kids read it themselves** - ☺ Happy Tennis folks!

Rick Baker

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