

BRAID LTC JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

(RICK BAKER – JUNIOR CONVENOR)

APRIL 2010

Junior Members/Parents,

Hey Guys - SPRING IS HERE!!

Well okay, maybe not quite yet with all the weather we've been having(!) but I am sure you are all bursting to get back out on court in the coming few weeks and months ahead, once the sun peaks through.....here's hoping for a great spring and summer of tennis! ☺

JUNIORS – 2010 SEASON

After a great year last year where we had a lot of kids on court throughout the year, I am pleased to report that I have been working away on your behalf pestering the committee (tee hee), for more equipment for us to use during coaching, especially at the Mini Tennis stage of development.....Under 10's, where specific balls and nets are required.



I have managed to secure the following equipment for the **Junior section** for the forthcoming coaching sessions and general play use;

New RED Mini Tennis Balls – 4 dozen balls

In line with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) coaching development guidelines, players **8 & Under** (Born 2002 or later) should use these balls which are low compression and help kids develop better technique and stroke where this ball bounces at the correct height and speed. These balls will be used on a **small court** (1/4 size of full court) using **Mini Tennis nets** – see below. This will be great for Domo – Club Coach, when he has a bunch of the Under 8's to coach in a few weeks time! If you are in this age bracket, then get ready for some serious fun with these balls! ☺

New ORANGE Tennis Balls – 4 dozen balls

The LTA orange ball should be used for kids who are ready to move on from red balls and generally speaking kids age **10 & Under** will benefit hugely from using this ball, which is used on a **¾ size court (full net)** and again the compression (bounce) of the ball is perfect in developing the future stars of our club! If you are in this age group prepare to see your game come on leaps and bounds with these balls! ☺

New GREEN Tennis Balls – 4 dozen balls

Green Balls are used by players on a **full sized court** for one year or so before they move onto the full 'adult' yellow ball. Again in line with LTA coaching and development strategy this ball is used by players around **12 and under** level and by the time kids reach S1 at school they should be playing with the yellow ball. Ability and experience comes into play with this ball where a child who is a good player may be on the yellow ball by P7 school year. If you are in this age group and are around **10/11/12 years old**, my bet is that your game will improve with this ball bringing on your ground strokes and technique big time! ☺

New Mini Tennis Nets – 2 nets

These Mini Tennis nets will be used by the future Andy Murray's of the club at **Under 8 level**.....high 5's will be a common feature when these little nippers start blasting away over the LTA approved net which is perfect for Mini Tennis Junior development with **Red** balls as outlined above.

New Court Markers – 25 markers

Handy markers for use in all general coaching and game play for marking out specific court sizes etc at different Mini Tennis and Orange/Green levels.

And finally.....

New Practice Net!!

The club have invested in a new practice net, which allows you guys to drop into the club and hit some balls against a springy practice net! You hit the ball at the net, and the ball comes bouncing straight back to you.....the harder you hit it, the harder the ball comes back to you! Pop into the club and try it. You'll love it and it is great for a little tennis practice if you have no-one to play with or you just want to warm up before beating your mum or dad in straight sets!!! ☺

JUNIOR COACHING – STARTS SOON – TAKE NOTE!!!

Club Coach – Dominic McManus..... 'Domo' (as the kids know him by!) has been a great success with the Juniors.

The Spring coaching sessions, which will run until the end of June in line with the school calendar, will begin again on **SUNDAY 18TH APRIL at 4-6pm.** The coaching will run **every Sunday at 4pm** until **Sunday June 27th** when we will stop for the summer holidays before beginning again in the autumn.

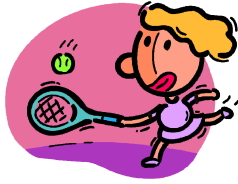
Domo and I have decided that this term of coaching we are going to ask that **ALL Juniors** (and any willing parents!) come along for the 2 hours on the first day so that we can explain what our thoughts are with regard to these sessions.....with all the new kit we are planning more focused coaching groups and lots more Match Play for the kids so that they are getting the best of both worlds from their coaching sessions.....lots of fun, lots of coaching tips, and lots of matches against other players on their level.

Please Note – Last year the younger kids (Under 10) came along at 4pm and the older kids (11 and over) came at 5pm.....this will change this year for the time being so that **ALL kids come along at 4pm**.....we have plans and even the older kids will benefit from this so the message is to come along to the first coaching session when all will be explained in detail. We of course may change things along the way depending on numbers/ability levels etc. so please bear with us for the first week or two until we 'bed' things in.



AND FINALLY.....

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 in a couple of weeks at Coaching!



PARENTS - My contact details are below.....as are Domo's.....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!

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