

JUNIOR TENNIS REPORT

RLTC 2019

November 4, 2019

This past season saw many fresh successes for the Junior Tennis Program at the RLTC. A Board of Directors Junior Tennis Committee was formed in March 2019 and an evaluation of the current junior programs was researched and conducted. The Committee consisted of Louise Malhotra, Paul Henry, Jackie Douglas, and Fiona Murray. Based on the Committee's assessments, this season's programming was revamped into two distinct divisions: Junior Recreational Program, and Junior Competitive Program. The Committee felt that the advent of a competitive program would attract more strong young local players, thus potentially increasing the volume of family memberships, as well as helping develop the next generation of members at the Club. Offering two distinct levels of play allowed the opportunity to meet the needs of more junior participants.

The new Junior Competitive Program was headed up by well-respected and highly seasoned tennis professional Zhenya Kondratovski. The new program curriculum, designed in conjunction with Coach Zhenya and the Junior tennis Committee, created a focus to improve technical, tactical, and mental aspects of the game for young juniors ages 9-14 who are interested in more competitive play. The program included elite coaching, coached match play, video analysis, and tournament preparation. This new program saw a great number of positive responses from its participants and rave reviews for Coach Zhenya, who was ably assisted by Coaches Ronan Boyd and Vincent Beaulé.

This season's redesigned Junior Recreational Program was headed up by returning Junior Pro, Vincent Beaulé. The program targeted kids ages 5 to 12 years who were beginner to low intermediate level. The program was re-structured to follow the Tennis Canada guidelines for "progressive tennis," a step-by-step approach to learning tennis fundamentals while building tennis confidence, physical literacy, and increasing tennis knowledge. This is achieved through the use of mini nets, smaller court sizes, low-density balls, and consistent training methodology. This program also enjoyed success this year with a strong selection of staff members to run both after-school clinics and summer camp programs. Junior instructors in the Junior Recreational program this season included: Vincent Beaulé, Ronan Boyd, Thomas Baxter, Adam Mussani, Paul Talib, and Leandre Duhamel. Vincent and Ronan also offered Junior Pro private lessons throughout the summer.

The spring after-school enrollment saw 57 participants in the Junior Recreational Program, and 26 participants in the Junior Competitive Program. The recreational summer camps ran for 8 weeks and included a total of 106 participants, while the 1-week competitive summer camp with Coach Zhenya had 6 kids enrolled. The fall programs saw weaker registration numbers, as has been the case in years past, with 23 in the recreational tennis and 10 in the competitive group. This lower fall enrollment has likely to do with the abundance of year-long competitive

and recreational programs that commence early September and run until December or June. The RLTC has trouble competing with the year-round clubs offering junior programs because of our limited 6-week session. The committee will decide moving forward how to better restructure the program during the fall weeks.

In our Junior Tournament, in the U-14 event, Adam Klepaczek prevailed in an exciting final against Tyler Malhotra. Our U-14 Consolation winner was Sebastien Howard who had an exciting final against Dylan Malhotra. In our U-8 tourney, Nico Howard took the cake! Well done to all the participants.

This year's Ali Khan award for dedication and commitment to tennis RLTC was awarded to George Dawe and Ella Murray Cook for their dedication to the sport and hard work throughout the season. They each received a stipend of \$150 from the Ali Khan trust.

Louise Malhotra