

## **Club Pro: Lisa Tooley**

### **Davis Cup Tournament:**

A great day of tennis was enjoyed by all who participated in the Davis Cup tournament on Saturday July 8<sup>th</sup>. In all, 30 matches were played, with 20 players representing 5 countries. The event wrapped up with a fun 1-point doubles tournament.

Recommendation for 2024 planning: Registration filled up quickly this year, resulting in a wait list. The general feedback was that members would like more of these organized types of fun, slightly-competitive round-robins throughout the season. I would be happy to organize more such events next summer.

### **Clinics in July:**

Live Ball and Doubles Drills clinics were each held once a week throughout the month of July. Over 26 members participated, with popularity and demand growing week over week.

### **Planning ahead for 2024:**

As I will be in Fenelon from June to August next summer, I would be happy to work alongside the club pro and offer more lesson and play opportunities for both juniors and adults. Here are some ideas for the club's consideration:

For juniors:

- Offer after-school lessons during May and June for ages 5-16.
- Depending on demand, organize a weekly one-hour junior league for junior members to come out and have an opportunity to play organized games/matches.

For adults:

- Organize and run a doubles league for beginner/low intermediate players
- Organize and coordinate a singles ladder
- Offer more weekly sign-up clinics including stroke of the week, live ball, cardio, doubles clinics, singles clinics...
- Support the club pro in any way possible. It would be great to run some clinics together over multiple courts.
- Depending on interest and logistics, organize some inter-club events with neighbouring clubs (Bobcaygeon, Lindsay, etc.)

## **Club Pro: Grace Ellery**

The 2023 season was overall successful but less busy than last season. Weather fluctuations were difficult to navigate starting off with some extremely hot days then into a cool and wet August.

## **Camps:**

The camps ran over 8 weeks of the summer. Over the 8 weeks, 27 children participated in total which is lower than last summer. The camps ran on court 1 & 2. There were many children returning from last year. There were a few children that signed up for multiple weeks after they attended the first one which is always a positive sign and referrals from friends and family are always a compliment. Parents commented they were encouraged to see their children excited to go to tennis camp, eagerly waiting until it was time to head to the courts. Although attendance was down this summer for the camps, I believe sometimes things happen for a reason. I had the privilege to have two children who have autism sign up for the camp, coincidentally signing up in the weeks that were low attendance. Both parents mentioned that it has been very difficult to find activities that their children could participate in and that they would enjoy, stating often their children are overwhelmed by group activities. This allowed me the opportunity to work with the kids in a controlled environment where they felt comfortable. The progress from the beginning of the week to the end of the week was nothing short of impressive but the most rewarding part was to see how the children loved and embraced the game. This was the highlight of my summer.

The club hosted the Kids N Kops program. This was the first time this the club has participated in this special program coordinated in partnership with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The day was a great success and lots of fun not just for the kids but for the volunteers as well, I was grateful to be a part of it. Now that I am in my first year of university my school year will be finishing at the end of April. This will allow me time to focus efforts on marketing the summer camps which I hope will correlate into increased attendance.

## **Coaching:**

This summer we shifted Sunday morning clinics to begin in June and finish the end of July in an effort to increase participation, unfortunately clinics were not well attended, and we may need to consider cancelling the clinics or looking at an alternate date or time. The Wednesday night novice clinic had great success. The clinic was financially supported by the club for four weeks for new members. Attendance was good and many members continued for the remainder of the summer. I would suggest continuing with this clinic time next summer. The free lessons offered as a prize through the home show were utilized and resulted interest in a membership for next summer, mission accomplished!

## **High School Liaison: Marg Pearson**

The FFTC had a very congenial, respectful and collaborative relationship with FFHS this spring. Angela Graham was always prompt to reply and supply the required and detailed information as soon as possible. She is temporarily replaced by Stephanie McDonald at the school this year and we are building a very good rapport. In the spirit of school support, the donation of used tennis balls is much appreciated.

Thank-you to the FFTC executive and John Donahue's patience and expertise for making SKEDDA such an excellent court booking tool for the school and club members.