

# Stokes Valley Junior Tennis Report 2017/2018

Congratulations to all who have supported the junior contingent this 2017/18 season.

Special thanks to all parent helpers, interclub managers, supporters, committee members, our generous sponsors and of course the players themselves who have contributed to a busy and successful junior tennis season. This report outlines the season's activities and highlights.

## Sunday Professional Coaching

Our fifth season of Sunday Junior Club Day professional coaching was provided by Evolve Tennis Coaching. Special thanks goes to Lewis from Evolve Tennis who has consistently run fun and effective Sunday training sessions and developed a fantastic rapport among our junior players. Thanks also to Tennis NZ and their Hot Shots programme for the wonderful gifts of caps for our young Hot Shots juniors registered with the club.



Well done to all the juniors who have been outstanding in their enthusiasm and commitment to Sunday coaching. The old adage is that one must do something 10,000 times before it becomes a new skill, so improvement in anything only comes with consistent and regular practice. Ultimately we do hope to provide more coaching opportunities for our kids but also any regular hitting parents and families have with their children also gives tremendous benefit.

We are enormously thankful to the Four Winds Foundation for generously awarding us grants totalling \$3,996 towards the costs of our junior professional coaching as well as \$1975 towards our seasons balls. We could not have survived these significant costs to our small club without them and we are all incredibly grateful.

We were also happily blessed with a new ball machine called "BOB" (aka "Blaster of Balls"), in a package worth \$5,164 through wonderful sponsorship from the NZ Racing Board. Many kids and adults have had a chance to hit with BOB and what a great asset he is for those looking to hit those 10,000 forehands and backhands!

And a big thank you to Elizabeth and John Anderson of Stokes Valley New World who have kindly supported our Sunday coaching and traditional prizegiving lolly-scramble with wonderful treats for the kids for the 12<sup>th</sup> year running! Along with the SV Community Trust, they also kindly sponsor of our interclub shirts for our teams. We are very lucky to have their generous support.



## Junior Interclub

This season we had 5 junior interclub teams (2 boys: Renegades & Stormers and 3 girls: Smiling Assassins, Sensations & Starlings) enter the Hutt Valley junior competition. Well done to all the interclub players for their great efforts representing SVTC proudly.

All teams did extremely well – all finishing respectably midfield in their grades with our top boys team, the Stormers (Dion, Rayen, Jonathan and Cam) pulling the best result "storming" into 2<sup>nd</sup> place of the Div 1 boys Post-Christmas competition and being the only team to beat the top placed team.

Members of our top girls team (Becky, Taylor, Hine and Cara) also played in the Senior competition alongside Lydia Wysocki, a wonderful senior. They actually won the Hutt Valley Div 1 Senior Ladies grade and earned the club a promotional spot in the Wellington Premier competition! Such an incredible result for the club.

Thanks to all our managers, Dean, Gaylene (with Maria & Alissa), Loren and Tracy who have done a great job organising and encouraging our teams throughout the season. Parental support makes interclub possible; we are incredibly grateful to all parents who support their kids to sport and instil wonderful life values of team spirit and commitment.

## Club Championships

Our junior Club Champs tournament was played at the beginning of February 2018. Thanks so much to all who took the time to support the event and get some valuable match practice (always good just prior to interclub restarting!). Many fantastic tennis matches were played in great spirit between comrades.

Novice and 9s competitions were completed in-house during Sunday coaching. Thanks to Jeremy May for helping umpire the 9s matches. It's a big learning curve for youngsters to play their first matches and the emphasis is on good sportsmanship as the basis of tennis etiquette.

The Merit awards are always incredibly hard decisions to make with so many people in line through their great sportsmanship and improvement over the season.

Congratulations to all the age-group champions, as well as the recipients of merit awards:

## STOKES VALLEY JUNIOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS AND AWARDS 2017/2018

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
Novice Girls	Thea Martin	
Novice Boys	Max Hiess	
9s Girls	Hayley Delaney	Olive Moss
9s Boys	Will Cooper	Otis Moss
11s Girls	Hadlee Coe	Sammy Nukunuku
11s Boys	Sam Roddick	Zack Ziogas
13s Girls	Nicole Hayes	Ella Martin
13s Boys	Sam Roddick	Zack Ziogas
15s Girls	Maddy Nukunuku	Cara Lill
15s Boys	Rayen Naidu	Jonathan Taylor
18s Girls	Olivia Cook	Taylor Robinson
18s Boys	Rayen Naidu	Jonathan Taylor
Girls Doubles	Olivia Cook Maddy Nukunuku	Becky Tait Taylor Robinson
Boys Doubles	Rayen Naidu Jonathan Taylor	Cameron Thomson Sam Roddick

Merit Awards	Winner
Most Improved Girl	Becky Tait
Most Improved Boy	Cameron Thomson
Girls Fairplay	Nicole Hayes
Boys Fairplay	Ollie May

## Further Acknowledgements

◇ Our club committee for their excellent work keeping our club vital for all to enjoy. Thanks to all for the assistance with grant applications and supporting junior events. In particular Craig Wood for all his great work and junior counsel as the new club treasurer.

◇ Thump Sports Mitchell Park for their generosity supplying prizes for our events. Shane works tirelessly alongside with the HVTA committee to support tennis in the Hutt Valley.

◇ Congratulations to our current years HV Representative juniors Olivia Cook and Cara Lill who make this step by committing to regular training schedules and tournaments.

Olivia Cook (14yrs) our Junior and Senior Club Champion, in particular is currently the Hutt Valley's top ranked junior in both under 14s and 16s. She is the top under 14 girl in the Central Region (includes HV, Wellington, Kapi Mana, Kapiti, Taranaki, Manawatu, Whanganui, and Wairarapa) and has a 14s national ranking of 14 (which undoubtedly would be higher if she hadn't met the eventual national champion in the first round!). Pretty hard to believe her humble beginnings at Stokes Valley Tennis Club!

## Final Thoughts

I would love to see more of our young juniors backing themselves to put in the effort to truly see what kind of complete tennis players they can become. Becoming an excellent tennis player is a journey of dedication and commitment. It never happens magically with minimal effort. Persistence is the only magic word.

The biggest reward from my years with juniors is seeing the incredible improvement that has occurred from the kids that have persisted and continued from young beginners right through to ages 18 and beyond. Obviously the more kids put in, the more they get out and better they become. Even after just a few seasons of interclub, there is significant growth in self-confidence and general athleticism as the kids realise just how skilled they are becoming and further enjoyment stems from there.

As my time convening nears an end, I would love to invite more parents to join the fun and love of the game alongside their children. Come learn to play yourselves or get back into it after a long hiatus. Come appreciate the challenges and the euphoria when a new skill is improved and the “wow” feelings when you surprise yourself and something goes brilliantly. Ask your children if they are loving learning tennis and if they do, find a way to get them involved in some extra coaching groups or just hit with them as often as you can. With patience the rewards can be wonderful. Learning tennis is as much a journey of self-discovery as it is a game.

Thanks again everyone for another great season.

Hopefully we see many of you (and more) back for the new 2018-19 season,

Warm Regards  
Theresa

***Edmund and Oli kindly loading up 'BOB'  
for the bigger kids!***

