**OSRA Coaches Report**

Head coach handover between Ben Rosec and Chloe Marshall took place in September 2017.

Junior County Closed – September 2017

A successful junior tournament with 42 entries across the age groups. The event was hosted by Abingdon Squash Club and held over two days. The winners of each event were as follows:

*GU11 Emily Coulcher Porter*

*BU11 Alex Smith*

*GU13 Imogen Twinn*

*BU13 Oliver Coulcher Porter*

*GU15 Jasmine Tranter*

*BU15 Ben Perkins*

*GU17 Amelia Leslie*

*BU17 Eve Coxon*

*BU19 Marcus Tranter*

2017/2018 Junior Inter-Counties

A few results from this year’s inter-county championships include:

BU11 + BU13 came 2nd in their group in stage 2 of the competition.

BU15 won their group in stage 2 of the competition, but unfortunately were unable to form a team for the trophy weekend.

BU17 + BU19 came 3rd in stage 2.

Unfortunately, we were unable to enter any girl’s teams into the championships this year due to a lack of active girl county players. This is a key area we are focussing on in our development plan, initially looking to increase girl participation in squash.

Level 1 Coaching Course

Racquets Fitness Centre hosted a Level 1 course lead by Chloe Marshall. 8 new level 1 coaches came out of the course, 6 of which are from Oxfordshire. Most of the candidates have kept in contact with Chloe, and are using their level 1 in their respective clubs.

If you are interested in getting involved in coaching squash or racketball then please contact Chloe for information on upcoming courses. This could be to help with the juniors at your local club or starting up an adult beginner group!

Changes to county training for 2018/2019 season

We have spent several months re-structuring the junior county training programme for the next season, looking at ways in which we can develop the pathway between age groups. We felt that our current set up was isolating each group rather than creating a team environment, with little insight into what to expect when a player moved groups. We will no longer be hosting age groups across different venues on different weekends.

The new structure will see all age groups training at the same venue, on the same date each month. A lead coach, alongside assistant coaches, will take all juniors across different time slots to allow each coach to work with every age group. This will also give our players the opportunity to see the other ages training, with a plan to gradually merge players into their new groups.

We hope that the new system will make it easier for the coaches to plan progressive sessions, as well as group players according to ability and not necessarily age.

Junior County Closed 2018

The Junior County Closed will run on the 15th/16th September. We are hoping to increase entries from last year’s event by advertising the event more widely and through the use of social media. We are looking into ways to create better communication links between OSRA and each of our clubs, to enable juniors across the whole county to get updates of county activities. We are pleased to announce that this year we will be introducing an under 9’s category at the junior CC for the first time, to encourage our younger juniors to get involved.

Funding

Small grants from the South Region have been accessed and used towards school programmes across Oxfordshire. Ben Rosec has formed a link with schools in Abingdon and Chloe has been working with 3 primary schools in Thame. We applied for a larger grant through the England Squash Foundation, but later found out that we were not suitable applicants for the grant as they adapted their target market to underprivileged areas.

“A big thank you to all the coaches, managers and volunteers who have supported junior squash in Oxfordshire this year. Without your ongoing support and commitment, we would be unable to run a successful county programme and would not be able to enter teams into the ICC each year. As I approach my second year in the role, I look forward to working with each of you for another season. We are always looking for additional volunteers to make our existing teams workload a little lighter, so if you can give up any amount of time to help – please don’t hesitate to get in touch! Have a fantastic summer, Chloe – OSRA Head Coach”