



YOUTH



LTA YOUTH MATCHPLAY CASE STUDY – THE PARKLANGLEY CLUB

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Organised by Susan Finch – Competition & Programme Coordinator and Referee
- The Parklangley Club has a junior programme of 1000 children
- Coaching Team of 20 LTA Licensed Coaches
- 10U Performance Centre
- Huge community outreach through taking on the running of local park sites
- Ran 40 LTA Youth Matchplay competitions in 2022



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Started running LTA Youth Matchplay competitions as had previously run Matchplay events, but with the launch of the LTA Youth Matchplay competitions it seemed like a great way to get coaches involved in the beginning of the competition pathway. The events provide progression for the players and education for the parents.



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HOW THE PARKLANGLEY CLUB RUN THEIR EVENTS

- Generally run at the local park sites attached to the club to overcome court capacity challenges
- Coaches asked to run 1 per term so they see their players competing
- Susan coordinates the competitions – taking entries, managing the TTP file and providing balls, score sheets, stickers, etc. so the coach just runs the event on the day
- Events last for 2 hours for 8U and 2.5 hours for 9U – 18U
- Run a round robin box – lots of matches for all the players (although they might not all play each other, which is fine for a matchplay!)
- Charge a £14 entry fee
- All players leave with stickers, a certificate and sweets!

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BENEFITS TO THE PLAYERS

- Entry level competition that follows on from their usual coaching programme
- Relaxed competition environment run by a friendly face
- Local
- Enables the players to learn how to play matches



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“The long term goal is to progress the players to higher level events and then into competing for the club to keep them engaged in the sport. LTA Youth Matchplay is a great stepping stone to accomplish this”

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TOP TIPS FOR OTHER VENUES AND ORGANISERS

- Make sure it is an enjoyable experience
- If you do a good job you get repeat business!
- Integrate the coaches into running competition to bridge the gap between coaching and competition
- Collaborate with local venues to deliver and promote events

