

Serve and Volley

With Totally Tennis Basingstoke

totallytennis
Basingstoke

Club programme will give youngsters chance to shine

TOTALLY Tennis recently announced this year's summer schools tennis initiative for the forthcoming summer term and tennis season.

The coaching team are extending an invitation to all infant, junior and primary schools in the Basingstoke area.

They are offering them the opportunity to have tennis sessions at their school as part of the PE schedule and after school clubs to participate in a new sport, keeping children active and healthy.

This offer includes tennis assemblies and taster sessions delivered free of charge to schools as part of the Totally Tennis Schools Development Programme.

Tennis assemblies give all pupils a positive fun introduction to playing tennis.

Coaches armed with short tennis nets and sponge balls capture children's imagination by performing demonstrations, trick shots, playing against the teachers and



● **ON THE ROAD:** Tennis coaches from Totally Tennis are offering to take their sport to infant, junior and primary schools in Basingstoke.

some of the children themselves.

Every class involved in the free taster sessions can have 30 minutes of coaching and every child will then receive a free session voucher and details

of follow-on opportunities available at the club itself.

In addition, the coaches also talent spot any children who had show potential in the taster sessions and offer them

follow-on opportunities

within the Totally Tennis squad programme.

Totally Tennis' schools programme, which has been running for 17 years and has received national recognition from the Lawn Tennis Association, is always looking for new initiatives to motivate children to be physically active.

This summer initiative gives children and teachers the opportunity to try a taster session without much disruption to their school day and it can then be used later in PE sessions.

Teacher training is a large part of the programme, encouraging teachers to participate in practical coaching sessions as well as providing written resources that are available to any school within the schools programme.

Many of the children offered this opportunity may not otherwise have the opportunity or incentive to try tennis, so the sessions provide them with the fantastic chance where they have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Following the free sessions, Totally Tennis offers all the schools a four-

week coaching programme within curriculum lessons and an after school club.

The follow-on opportunities at the centre itself starts from the grass roots level, encouraging children to try tennis in schools, also offers various ways to continue playing from fun based Saturday morning clubs, holiday courses, junior development and performance programmes right up to national level.

All local schools will be invited to send children to represent them in the annual Primary Schools Tennis Tournament, sponsored by Totally Tennis and the *Gazette*, which is scheduled to take place this year on Friday June 25.

Totally Tennis Director Nigel Long said: "Totally Tennis has already received national recognition for its development and performance work with juniors in Basingstoke, and is regularly used by the Lawn Tennis Association as an example of best practice."

"We hope that all schools will be interested in extending this great opportunity to all their children."

Any schools interested in the Totally Tennis Schools Development Programme should contact the office on 01256 358816 or by e-mail tt@totallytennis.co.uk. More information about the club can be found by visiting the website totallytennis.co.uk

Tennis Tip

SMASHING

WHEN you are at the net and your opponent lobs you the first thing you must do is decide if you can smash the ball back.

If you can, turn to the side and point to the ball with your non-playing arm.

Move sideways so you could almost catch the ball overhead and get your racket in the throwing position.

When the ball is at the right height throw the racket up like a serve for a smashing time!

Basingstoke centre is one to show off

TOTALLY Tennis was the first stop on a three-centre visit for Sport England's Senior Growth Manager Heather Taylor.

The Sport England official visited three tennis clubs in Hampshire as part of the Lawn Tennis Association's (LTA) relationship with Sport England.

She was accompanied by Chris Corby and the pair started their day by visiting Totally Tennis, meeting with Tennis Centre Manager Emily Clark, who showed them around the facilities.

The centre was the first in Hampshire to achieve Tennis

Clubmark accreditation in 2008 and has recently been awarded Beacon status by the Tennis Foundation.

The club is also now a proud part of the AEGON Parks Programme.

The officials were told how the club runs one of the best schools programme in the area and encouraging children to actively participate in sport both during the school days and out-of-hours.

Next on the visit was a trip to Compton and Shawford Tennis Club on the outskirts of Winchester.

Compton and Shawford

achieved Tennis Clubmark accreditation last year and operate on a parks site with a shared pavilion, which was funded by Sport England in 2003.

Finally, the visit ended with a trip to David Lloyd Southampton, which is also the headquarters of Hampshire LTA.

The centre is an accredited Satellite performance club and has some of the best juniors within the county training throughout the week.

Simon Johnson, Hampshire LTA Tennis Development Manager, said: "It was great to

welcome Sport England to the County.

"It is important for them to see how tennis clubs of different size and demographics are continuing to develop with both Sport England and LTA support."

Sport England is focused on the creation of a world-leading community sport system investing National Lottery and Exchequer funding in organisations and projects that will grow and sustain participation in grassroots sport and create opportunities for people to excel at their chosen sport.

Tennis Talk

JUDY Murray, national coach and mother of British number one Andy has launched a competition called 'Treat A Mum Competition' to recognise and reward one of the most important groups of people in tennis – the tennis mum.

Murray, pictured, is looking across Britain for mum's who deserve not just a medal, but a day to remember at the National Tennis Centre, where they will get advice on everything from coaching tips to training tops.

Then it's an afternoon at the AEGON Championships, and a chance to watch the biggest names in men's tennis.

If you think your mum, or someone you know, deserves a chance to win this special day then visit Judy's section on the LTA website (lta.org.uk) before May 2 to win a special day out for your mum.

