

## **Talent Identification & Player Development in Durham & Cleveland**

### **Introduction**

This document seeks to clarify to all of those involved in Durham & Cleveland tennis the process of talent identification and the subsequent development of talent; for those players who wish to follow the performance pathway. A Performance player can loosely be described as a player with the ambition and drive to play at National level but ideally looking to make an impact in the professional game.

### **Talent Identification**

The Talent Performance Coordinator (TPC) organises and implements the Lawn Tennis Association's National Talent Identification strategy within Durham & Cleveland. Your TPC is Mike Woods.

The process for this is as follows:

- In late summer coaches are contacted asking for nominations of young players (age groups are stated within the correspondence) who are in their view talented, athletic and keen to follow the Performance Pathway.
- Further players may be recruited by the TPC from club/tournament visits or from young players who are actively competing.
- Players are then invited to a County Talent Identification day where they are subjected to some simple physical and tennis tests. Parents are given a presentation on the day giving appropriate advice and more importantly encouraging the need for good communication all round between Player/Parent – Coach – LTA.
- Following this day all players receive a report which includes information on how much tennis and other activities they should participate in per week if they wish to progress and take the performance journey.
- Following this the TPC deals with any queries, particularly steering players who find it difficult to access enough court time.

- Players who are deemed to have National Potential will be invited to attend a Regional Talent Identification day and if successful a National Talent Identification Day. Players on this journey will receive full support and guidance from the TPC and relevant LTA staff.

### **Parent Commitment**

Parents of young performance players have a number of tasks to perform/manage and the learning curve can be steep! To help with this it is of **paramount importance** to develop a good relationship with the player's **individual coach**. Together they should in effect manage the programme of the player. Key tasks to be completed are:

- Weekly programme. Ensuring that the right mix of individual, squad and physical activities are in place, working on the correct things at the right time.
- Tournament programme. The aim of this to help develop the player's ability to compete and learn strategy and the mental skills to play at a good level.
- Goal setting. **SMART** goals need to be set by the coach in conjunction with the player and the parent to ensure realistic plans of work are set and progress can be monitored.

### **Performance Places to Play**

To help with player development there are a number of places to play that can offer some or all of the ingredients to help develop an aspiring performance player. Basic information regarding these centres is detailed below:

#### **High Performance Centre (HPC)**

Located at the County Tennis Ground in Newcastle the HPC can offer full performance support for aspiring players of all ages. This may include:

- Full on court programme in line with LTA Long Term Player Development Guidelines.
- Full Physical programme delivered by Olympic standard physical conditioning team.

- Goal setting.
- Tournament planning including trips to domestic and international tournaments.
- Match analysis.
- Video analysis with full technical report.
- Nutritional support.
- Psychological support.
- Physio support and injury rehabilitation.

For more information contact HPC manager, Chris Sanderson on 07931310652 or [chrissanderson@hotmail.com](mailto:chrissanderson@hotmail.com)

### **Satellite Club**

This is located at Tennis World, Middlesbrough. Tennis World can offer quality coaching programmes for all but with an emphasis on the under 12 age group. Support to players may include:

- Full on court programme in line with LTA Long Term Player Development Guidelines.
- Physical conditioning advice.
- Goal setting.
- Tournament planning including trips to domestic tournaments.
- Match analysis.

For more information contact Head of Performance Libby Fletcher on 07764222383 or [Libs\\_uk@hotmail.com](mailto:Libs_uk@hotmail.com)

### **Indoor Centres**

There are a number of indoor tennis centres within the County. These may be able to offer the following:

- On court programme including performance squads, individual lessons.
- Physical conditioning advice.
- Goal setting.
- Tournament planning including trips to domestic tournaments.
- Match analysis.

These centres are:

**Sunderland Tennis Centre.** Contact Anthony Reynolds on 07944605931 or [anthony.reynolds3060@ntlworld.com](mailto:anthony.reynolds3060@ntlworld.com)

**Wearside Health & Racket Club.** Contact David Boddy on 01912121158 or [David.Boddy@Esporta.com](mailto:David.Boddy@Esporta.com)

**David Lloyd Stockton.** Contact Alan Smith on 07930133041 or [alansmith93@btinternet.com](mailto:alansmith93@btinternet.com)

### **Clubmark Centres**

These are places to play that have received LTA Club Mark Accreditation. These centres will offer basic player opportunities, delivered by licensed coaches.

These centres can be found by going online:

[LTA.org.uk/in-your-area/DurhamCleveland](http://LTA.org.uk/in-your-area/DurhamCleveland)

Click on 'Where To Play' tab on left hand-side

### **County Training**

Durham & Cleveland LTA run additional 'Invitational Training' sessions for U12, U14 & U18 age groups. These are weekly sessions delivered at an indoor centre by a qualified, licensed LTA coach. There are also U10 'Invitational Training' sessions that generally take place weekly. The purpose of the sessions is to help players prepare to represent the County at AEGON County Cup competitions which are held once a year.

These sessions may be useful to a player in securing additional, quality hours for his/her weekly programme. If you would like further information please contact,

**Durham & Cleveland LTA.** Contact John Schofield on 07812110141 or [jlschofield@ntlworld.com](mailto:jlschofield@ntlworld.com)

## **Expectations/Role of the Individual Coach**

The role of the individual coach, as already mentioned, is to help manage the programme of the young performance player. It can be seen that there are a number of options available to players and in relation to this it would be expected that the individual coach would contribute the following in relation to this:

- Help select suitable venues to ensure that the player has the best chance of progressing.
- Liaise with the venue on goal setting, progress and on going development/issues. Try to develop an honest, open relationship with that centre and its staff.
- Put the needs of the player first and to understand the time and need for a player to migrate to a coach/venue better suited to fulfil developmental needs.

## **Expectations of Centres**

- To develop an honest, open relationship with coaches of accessing players.
- To act in a professional manner at all times, particularly relating to supporting the goals and input of the individual coach.
- To involve in the planning stage individual coaches to try to ensure a complimentary programme is put in place.