

## **New Head Coach @ Gidea Park LTC**

Dear Member

We are extremely pleased to tell you that TOM HIGGINS has now been appointed as the new Head Coach and, subject to contract, will be starting at the club on Friday December 2nd.

These are exciting times for our club as Tom is certainly one of the very highest calibre coaches in Essex and comes with an excellent reputation and status amongst players and officials alike.

For those of you that do not know Tom personally, here are some of his background details.

He started playing at Gidea Park with his father Bob when he was 9 and progressed through all stages of tennis playing for Essex at all age groups and going on to play at Junior Wimbledon and the ATP professional tour achieving a world ranking of 900!

He has a very extensive knowledge of coaching at all levels from complete beginner to professional player and has a wealth of experience working with local schools in outreach programs, talent ID and scholarship programs and local 'learn to play' programs. He is currently in charge of 'Compete' which is the premier performance player coaching program in Essex.

Tom's vision is to see his boyhood club grow and succeed and he intends to dedicate much of his time to this end. He will be assisted in this by our two current part time coaches Ollie Collis and Nicole Cruse who run many of the junior squads that take place and a new coach – Kane Patience who will be assisting. Kane is a very accomplished player having played on the circuit and is also an excellent level 3 coach (soon to be level 4) and will be available for lessons for all players of all standard. We are going to be spoilt for choice with such a selection of top quality coaching at prices to suit every budget.

On the junior side of things he will be introducing additional squads to cater for our aspiring performance players of all ages and introducing some interaction between these squads and the players in the Compete Program. This is very good news for our performance young players as they will benefit not only from Tom's coaching programs but also be at the forefront of county tennis in Essex. Tom also intends to introduce Saturday afternoon tennis for our top young players, giving them the chance to play doubles, not only with their own peers, but also with some of the first team players in the club and even some of the top players from his Compete squads. This quality and variety of tennis will be unmatched by any other club in Essex and help us to ensure that good young players continue playing into

adult tennis and not just fall by the wayside once they are too old for junior tournaments. Tennis is for Life!

On the adult side, Tom wants to improve and enhance the experience for existing and new club members alike and ensure that all members' needs are met. He has loads of ideas to this end but also wants to get to know everyone and hear their ideas and suggestions so that he can, as he put it 'be creative as a team to build new schemes and ensure that players get the most out of their membership'. Tom is highly experienced at encouraging and developing, technically, tactically, physically and mentally the individual to achieve their maximum potential which he hopes will lead players to an even greater love of the game.

So, Tom will be starting at the club on Friday 2nd December with Cardio tennis in the morning and running into junior squads and then social tennis in the evening. Let's all do our best to make him welcome and come along for Social tennis and the Music Night in the bar afterwards where he is looking forward to meeting everyone personally. If you wish to contact him in the meantime his number is 07885 968237 or his email is [headcoach.gpltc@gmail.com](mailto:headcoach.gpltc@gmail.com) and he will be pleased to hear from you.