

## Martin Sangster – Head Coach Biography

I am both delighted and excited to be appointed as Head Coach at Drumchapel Tennis Club. I have been asked to come in and coach at the club, regularly, over the last six months, therefore, I am relatively familiar with the club, some of the members and the existing coaching programme.

The club is very welcoming and has a real community feel about it. The potential for growing the coaching programme at the club and local park sites – Knightswood and Drumchapel - is huge, and I see this as an exciting challenge.

My engagement with tennis – and indeed with all sports as a child - was to simply go outside and do it. Inspired by watching Wimbledon like so many young people of my generation, I began playing at local park sites in Aberdeen pretending to be as cool as Stefan Edberg, as gutsy as Boris Becker whilst often behaving like John McEnroe! Without any access to formal coaching, I initially taught myself to play by watching others and persevering. My tennis idol is Roger Federer who simply oozes grace and class; I also have huge respect and admiration for our own Murray brothers – who both demonstrate that any young Scottish player can aspire to greatness.

As a young adult and then a teacher of Physical Education, I began to develop a love of inspiring others to simply 'have a go' whilst supporting their development. My tennis coaching philosophy has developed over the years but my underlying belief is that tennis should be underpinned by 'fun, enjoyment and camaraderie' and that learning and improvement will only take place as a result. I believe that high quality coaching should facilitate player improvement and not be an end in itself. Tennis is simply a game and, as Head Coach, I intend to create more opportunities for members to enjoy playing and competing.

I completed my LTA Level 3 coaching qualification in 2014 and have coached for many years at David Lloyd Edinburgh, Colinton LTC in Edinburgh and David Lloyd Glasgow West End where I am still involved in their junior programme. I still teach Physical Education on a full-time basis in a social care setting in Bishopbriggs which I find very rewarding. I am also an Ambassador for the Judy Murray Foundation with responsibility for the promotion of Family Tennis and Workforce development in the Maryhill and Calton areas of Glasgow, as well as the Glasgow area representative for 'touchtennis' - a unique form of the game open to players of all ages worldwide.

In terms of family, my two sons are both involved in tennis as well as many other sports supported by my wife, Sharon, a Depute Head Teacher, who doubles up as a taxi service for them. The whole family are looking forward to getting involved in the life of the club.

My aims for the coaching programme at Drumchapel LTC align with those of the club committee and are very ambitious. I am keen to grow club membership, our player pool, create opportunities for social and competitive play and to raise the profile of the club in local schools, the wider community and across the West of Scotland.

Lastly, I cannot do all this alone. I am therefore keen for your support and intend to nurture a team of high-quality coaches from within the club. I am also open to suggestions or feedback with regards to coaching or club development so members can feel free to approach me at any time to share their views or contact me via email at [tenniscoachmartin@gmail.com](mailto:tenniscoachmartin@gmail.com) or via phone/text on 07785 301225.

Enjoy your tennis and keep 'banging the Drum'!