

THE Academy

REAL TENNIS EXCELLENCE

2023/24 Season

By Graham Tomkinson & Paul Weaver



The Dedanists Society

T&RA Tennis & Rackets Association



A Great Season for the Academy!

The British Real Tennis Academy is the UK national coaching program for the best young players in the country. It is run by the Dedanists Society and funded by the Society and the T&RA. The Academy works in 3 stages. We **discover** new talent, **nuture** them through top class coaching in our Cadet Squad, and then once they have developed as players, **support** them in their progress in the game. Last season the Academy took a bold decision and underwent a radical change. Under the guidance of Paul Weaver and Graham Tomkinson, the Academy has been considerably simplified to concentrate its efforts on the very best of our junior talent. As a result of this change, there are now just 3 national squads.

The effect has been dramatic with the top Academy players improving rapidly and winning numerous National and International tournaments (see below). This new format will now be the blueprint for the Academy going forward and will, we are sure, result in even more success to follow. The Society works with the Department of Sport Sciences at Brunel University to ensure that the design and content of Academy programmes include current research and best practice from the wider world of elite sport.

The Society funds programmes that support and complement Academy coaching. It sponsors junior tournaments that engage and motivate players and coaches such as the World Junior Championships, the British Under 21 & 24 and the British Girls Under 15 & 19 championships. It includes IIP apprentices in its Academy coaching sessions and helps the LRTA to fund its newly-launched Girls' Academy. Paul Weaver is in charge of the Academy Programme as a whole.

2023/24 Programme Management & Coaches

Operations Manager Paul, Weaver, **Squad Directors** Graham Tomkinson, Mike Henman, Nick Warner. **Tennis Coaches** Chris Bray, Rob Fahey, Claire Fahey, Dan Jones, Andrew Lyons, Ben Ronaldson, Bryn Sayers, Ben Taylor Matthews. **Physical Training** Stefan Antanov. **Sports Psychology** Aura Goodman. **Microtactics** Tennis coaches plus Graham Tomkinson. **Academy President** Josh Farrall.

IN 2023/24, we aim to deliver 15 squad coaching days and a further 50+ sessions of individual one-on-one coaching to Academy players.

Paul Weaver is in charge of the programme as a whole. The 3 national squads for the 2023/24 season are:

Advanced Squad (managed by Graham Tomkinson) Robert Shenkman, Levi Gale, Lea van der Zwalmen, Florent Brethon.

Performance Squad (managed by Mike Henman) Max Trueman, James Medlow, William Flynn, Henry Henman, Bertie Vallat, Oliver Pridmore.

Cadet Squad (managed by Nick Warner) Max Warner, Algernon Nottingham, Laszlo Garson, Caspian Rugg, Alex Boulton.

The Girls Academy

We are delighted to announce the formation of a Girls Academy Squad. This currently consists of 15 girls from 6 different clubs. This Academy is 50% funded by the Society and 50% by the LRTA. We believe that junior girls' real tennis will be an area of considerable growth in the coming years, led by the girls at Wellington and Oratory. Darcie Blaber, who has performed exceptionally well in the Girl's Academy, has also been invited to attend a couple of the National Cadet Squad sessions in the coming season.



Lea Van Der Zwalmen



The Performance Squad



Robert Shenkman with the British Amateur Trophy



Max at the US Junior Championships



Will Flynn U24 Champion



Caspian at the French Junior

2022/23 Season – Notable Achievements by Academy Players. During this season Academy players won the following tournaments:-

U14 British Singles (Max Warner), U16 British Singles (Henry Henman), U18 British Singles (Max Trueman), British U21 and U24 Singles (Will Flynn), British U24 Doubles (Will Flynn & Max Trueman), USA U15 Singles (Max Warner), USA U17 Singles (Max Warner), Seacourt Silver Racquet (Max Trueman), Tuxedo Gold Racquet (Max Trueman), French Open Ladies Doubles (Lea Van Der Zwalmen with Saskia Bollerman). Levi Gale Singles Qualifier and Doubles Finalist at Australian Open, Robert Shenkman Qualifier at the US Open.

World Under19 Champion (Max Trueman).

World Under 19 Girls' Champion (Cesca Sweet).

British Amateur Singles Championship (Rob Shenkman).

World No.1 ranking Ladies Amateur (Lea Van Der Zwalmen).

MVP National League Div 1/2 (Levi Gale).

2023/24 Season to date -

U14 & U16 British Singles (Laszlo Garson)

U18 British Singles (Bertie Vallat)

Max Trueman

In a year when many young players have achieved great results, special mention must go to Max Trueman (Seacourt). During this season Max has won the British U18 Singles and the World U19 Championships, the U24 Doubles (with Will Flynn), the Seacourt Silver Racket and the Tuxedo Gold Racket tournaments. His win in America has attracted the attention of several American clubs, who have expressed an interest in Max as a future Real Tennis professional. Max has proved that playing well as a junior and working hard on your game within the Academy can lead on to exciting possibilities.

World U21 Ranking List

The top 6 players in the World U21 are all members of The Dedanists' Society Performance Squad.

1. Will Flynn
2. Oliver Pridmore
3. Max Trueman
4. Bertie Vallat
5. Henry Henman
6. James Medlow

