

How Andy learnt the F-words

Of the myriad coaching appointments made by the LTA in the last two years, that of Louis Cayer was the least fêted and may turn out to be the most significant. Cayer carries the rather obtuse title of LTA Performance



Programmes Manager but his impact already on the fortunes of the Murray brothers means that the Canadian has earned his stripes. He was brought in to enhance fortunes in doubles – the LTA is the only organisation in world tennis to have a

“specialist doubles coach” – and Jamie’s win in the mixed doubles at Wimbledon last year is testament to that. But the former Canadian Davis Cup captain has also been helping to supervise Andy’s coaching, to the extent that Judy, his mother,

yesterday praised Cayer for his contribution to the improvement of Andy’s service. The coach has emphasised the “F-words” – forehand, footwork and first serve – and the young Scot is reaping the benefits of the advice

Forehand

As Cayer writes, baseliners with a big forehand can increase their chances of being able to use it by positioning themselves more to their backhand side whenever possible. Thus, when setting up to hit a serve, a right-handed player can set up a little more to the left, and once the serve has been hit, can move even further to the left to await the return

First serve

The more he makes, the easier the game becomes and too often, Murray’s percentage has fallen short of the very best. In Doha, it was noticeable that his serve down the T, especially in the deuce court, had improved. He completed the tie break against Thomas Johansson in the quarters with a service winner and an ace; and from break point down against Rainer Schüttler at 4-1 in the second set, struck three service winners

Footwork

A quick step here and there can be the vital difference. Murray has always been a good deal quicker than he looks at first glance and some of his forehand recoveries this week were quite extraordinary. Reminds one of Steffi Graf in that he never forgets to split step before aligning himself for every shot

