

## Ladies Captain Report-AGM 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2016

### F Team- captained by Joanne Burke

Jo kindly came forward and offered to fill the gap of captaincy despite it being her first season of playing matches. The team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 5 having been promoted from Div 6 in 2015.

Steph and Millie deserve a call out for joining the team late in the season and rescuing them when they were struggling to put 4 players on court. Louise also deserves a call out for stepping in when they were short of players. A key learning from next year is to ensure all squad members can be available for a minimum number of matches.

The highlight from the season was their full house away to Chalford!

### E Team- captained by Julie Buck.

The Es coped very well with Div 5 finishing in the middle. Julie and Di won an impressive number of points. Sadly Janice was injured from the start of the season and the team missed her greatly.

They were very good at organising team practices and even the odd lesson. Irene, Lynette, Lesley and Nicky all pulled together and mixed around to make great partners having not played together before.

Di put her game face on and had a great season in addition to being a great support to Julie as Captain.

### D Team-captained by Ann Napper

Ann took to her new role as Captain which she was able to do since her retirement as a PE teacher and we couldn't have asked for more commitment especially when she was heading up a team full of PE teachers!!

Sadly they finished 6th but we knew it was a tough squad as there were some less experienced match players who made the big jump up to Div2, and some who had been out of team tennis for some time and some more experienced players. The squad approached the season with energy, enthusiasm and commitment resulting in some fun and competitive Sunday afternoon sessions. It was great that the more experienced players shared their tactical expertise and the less experienced players asked lots of questions and accepted lots of advice.

A special mention goes to Clare who won the most points for the team. Also to Amanda for her patience and determination to get herself back to full fitness after a year out. She + Lou got a few ladies inspired to run the Race For Life. She was a great asset to the D team and was very supportive to the new team members and led by example in her play.

### C Team-captained by Anna Gell

The C team readied themselves for the competition ahead with the purchase of a team shirt and were often complemented by the opposition on how professional they looked. They endeavoured to have regular team practices and coaching sessions (they even started a debriefing 'happy hour') - alas although armed and ready the opposition were often 'A' teams and therefore just a little better than them. The season ended with a win which was a great finish but sadly they finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 1.

They had five matches rescheduled due to rain which didn't help by having two of them cancelled at the beginning of the season. They lost Heather for the season who only managed one match before the end.

She showed great support by coming to watch the team when playing at home (and also helped with some lower team matches as she slowly recovered).

## B Team-captained by Elaine Holwell

The team finished middle of Div 1 which was a great result given it was a whole new mix of ladies. It was lovely to welcome new member 'young' Kate bringing the average age down significantly!

It was a tough start to the season with a 4 nil defeat to Oxstalls but the highlight was finishing 4-0 v Beckford especially as 2 of the points were gained by Zena and Elaine who had unfortunately been injured nearly all season.

Most significant breakthrough is that Prosecco is now part of B teams match teas! Elaine also set up a Whats App group and this was excellent for communicating instantly with the squad especially with weather updates etc.

## A Team -captained by Tina Wall

It was a season hampered with injuries even before the first match with no Ange or Jo for the majority of matches. With also losing Hannah it was fantastic to welcome Luci and Emma who went on to win many valuable points albeit Emma played throughout some of the hottest evenings in her knitwear! The team were reunited towards the end of the season but sadly didn't manage to avoid relegation finishing 6th overall. Bring on next year as they try and regain their position with a full squad to get back into the Premier.

## Summary

So it was a tough season overall but we expected that as we did have quite a shake up at the start of the season. However the feedback has been that everyone has enjoyed the games and some have felt really pushed and developed their game which was one of our aims. Some people were put out of their comfort zone in tougher teams but it was just fantastic how everyone embraced the season and just got on with it.

The matches I have watched have been full of enthusiasm, energy , focus and most importantly team camaraderie. I genuinely have been so chuffed to see so many ladies committed to the club. Next year we will build on this and win more matches!

I want to thank all the Captains for going the extra mile as I know its not easy at times when the weather is dodgy and you have to make a call on whether a match should go ahead or when last minute availability changes.

Finally I want to thank Adam, Jack and Jonno for making us all as brilliant as we are (!) and inspiring us with some mental coaching at the beginning of the season. Most importantly they make it all fun even when its cold and wet and miserable!

Thank you to all the Ladies for all their hard work.

***Most Improved Player went to Rose who has been so keen to learn from the first session. She attended 12 of the 14 Sunday D team sessions and just gets better all the time!***

