

Men's Captain's Report - October 2016

Overall it was a very satisfactory season for the men's teams and we have achieved my long-term aim of having the six men's teams all at different levels from Premier League to Division 5. The final piece in this jigsaw this season was promotion of the E team from Division 5 to 4.

The A team had their highest position for at least a decade and were 4th in the Premier Division and are now established as one of the Top 5 teams in the county, and hopefully will no longer be called the "West Brom" of Gloucestershire Tennis - bouncing up and down out of the Premier League!

The B team had their usual solid season finishing 3rd in Division 1A, by far the toughest of the two Division 1 leagues. They have now finished no lower than 3rd for the past 5 seasons at least, without ever being promoted, which might well be a dubious honour anyway!

The C team, after showing 1 point at the mid-point in the season, to my horror, ended up safe with 22 points. It turns out the horrible start was due to some results not being entered and bad luck with the weather. Despite the strong finish, Brexit seems to have had a dire effect on the C team, with two members fleeing the country before next season! Stephen Gear and Guy Cowdry, both of whom have been valuable members of the squads – we wish them both well.

The D team were not promoted in previous summer 2015, but ended up being in a higher division (2) anyway in 2016 due to a drop-out higher up the leagues. As expected, they had a tough season and were relegated back to where they are happier playing.

As mentioned above the E team, at last, are back in the league where I think they belong – Division 4 after gaining promotion from 5B with 26 points – very well done Christophe and team!

The F team, as always it seems, struggled to get a team together for some matches, and finished 5th with 15 points, but will probably escape relegation as other teams are likely to withdraw above them for next summer.

As always, a huge amount of thanks and appreciation for my captains: Shane, Paul Harris, Stephen Gear/Steve Ball, Jeremy, Christophe and Phil. They are the ones who really do all the work once the season has started, having to deal with last minute drop-outs, weather issues and being positive at all times!

Just a footnote on the Winter Mixed League, which has just started. Cirencester is one of only two clubs in the county with 5 teams entered – East Glos being the other. Good luck to all teams for a solid season.

Finally, as I announced at the Captain's Dinner, I am stepping down from the committee, where I have probably over-stayed my welcome, being the longest-serving member, since 2006. An alarm bell rang and I realised it was time to step down when my original committee chairman, Adrian, came back again for a second term. Groundhog Day!

For the second half of those 10 years I have been privileged to be the Men's Captain and have thoroughly enjoyed serving the club, which is massively stronger on and off the court than it was 10 years ago! Of course, I will miss it and some of the vigorous discussions during committee meetings, but it is time for someone else to have a go! At the time of writing the only person stepping forward was Shane, and, to be honest, I couldn't recommend anyone else more highly to take over, so please give him your backing!