

## **Women's Captain Report 2018**

Our women's teams had a great season, particularly the C team, who have been promoted. Congratulations to them.

It's been a real pleasure being Women's Captain. I'd like to thank my predecessor, Rachel, who has supported me throughout; ever willing to give me assistance despite everything else she has to do. I'd also like to thank the weather gods for giving us all a season where virtually no rescheduling was necessary.

Big thanks too to the team captains, all of whom have done a fab job, dealing womanfully with the ups and downs of the season. Special mention here goes to Irene, who was talked into being the E team captain on Dee's recommendation. She hadn't taken on the role before and was unsure about it but was always positive and helped her team overcome a shaky start.

### **E team: Irene**

The season did not start well. The first match was lost 4-0 and there were 6 lost tie-breaks in the first four matches, some as close as 11-9 and 10-8. However, not all tie-breaks were lost (relief and excitement when Jackie and Sally got the team the first point!) and the matches, though challenging, were fun and friendly so it was agreed enjoyment was as important as points. There was a good team spirit with everyone supporting each other – just as well as most members had to play with 4 different partners throughout the season; not the ideal! Due to injury, two players were unable to play so we were glad to welcome Mary to the team in June and Becky in July. In the end, there were 4 losses, 4 draws and 4 wins so having started out bottom, the team ended up in a worthy 3rd place. There were 13 tie-breaks in 48 rubbers – 7 lost but 6 won, so perhaps they aren't as unfair as we thought at the beginning of the season! Every member of the team contributed to the points so well done Anisa, Becky, Dee, Irene, Jackie, Julie, Lesley, Mary and Sally.

### **D team: Ann**

The D team has enjoyed its best season for 3 years! We finished 3rd in Div. 3, just 2 pts behind 2nd place. The 4 losses, of 1-3, were to the two top teams. We won 3 matches and drew 3. We played 9 Championship Tie Breaks and won 6 of them!

We were helped by having a short compact season by starting mid April and finishing at the beginning of July before everyone disappeared on holiday! We were sorry to lose Jane Brodrick to a nasty broken shoulder at the first match and we are grateful to Midge and Mary who both played 1 or 2 games to score us important points!

Settling into more consistent pairs this summer was also a bonus. Etty and Lindsay are an established pair who bring great energy and athleticism to the court. Anne-Maree is a great addition to the team and has developed a competitive partnership with Lucy. Ann and Rose have become more consistent to finally achieve a positive win/loss record!

Our aim now is to start next season as strongly as we finished and to get that top spot!

### **C team: Jenny**

Well done Women's C... another fun season, and up to the dizzy heights of the first division! I think we were helped by the 'new courts' home advantage, but, then again, you all had that, didn't you?

All the team are a pleasure to play with – being captain is easy because everyone is so committed and gives 100%. It was excellent to have Di join us for the first time this year and also Midge, who with her steely determination gained the most points for our team this year.

### **B team: Zena**

A very successful summer season for the Women's B team, coming 2nd equal and only 3 points behind the leaders – heaven forbid we ever come top as the premier wouldn't be a lot of fun!

We never lost a single match 0-4. When it came to championship tie-breaks I was very surprised at the results because out of a total of 17, we won 11 and lost 6 and I would have expected the opposite.

Congratulations to Rachel and Sophie who came top of our player statistics. They played with a variety of partners with good humour and enthusiasm. Thanks also to Anne-Maree who jumped in at the last minute for us against Minchinhampton.

### **A team: Katie**

A highly pleasing season for the A's this year – it didn't look too easy at the start of the season as there were some good teams in there – but with great commitment from key players we got the points that mattered. We finished a very good 4th with 22 points – 4 points behind Painswick A on 26 and 4 points above East Glos B and Minch on 18.

Jo was our star player – winning 13 out of 18 rubbers... well done! She was 7th in the overall standings of the league, which is pretty impressive when you look at the mixture of county players and coaches she's up against.

We had some little bits of luck along the way - David Lloyd sent a very weak player so we got a good draw at home and we played Minch when they weren't their strongest - but you still have to bag the points!

Elaine and Julia pulled off a great champ tie to seal a 3-1 victory v East Glos B and that pretty much sealed it - we would stay up!

Thanks to Julie Taylor and Jane Muncer who stepped in when we need last-minute subs – much appreciated!”

Player of the season awards went to Etty (for impressive improvement in her play and also for the resilience she showed after breaking her wrist) and Midge (who not only won the most points for our most successful team this season but she also kindly played for the D's, as well as playing for the seniors too). Well done to them both.